

## SCHEDULE

Paragraph 2(3)(a)

### Form 9A.3A-A

#### Rule 9A.3A(2)(c)

#### Form of information regarding right to representation by Queen's Counsel

An accused who is charged with murder is entitled to be represented by a Queen's Counsel (QC). QCs are persons who have been recognised by the court as having a distinction in advocacy to a standard that marks them out as leaders of their profession. A QC may be a member of the Faculty of Advocates (known as an advocate) or a solicitor advocate (a solicitor with extended rights of audience in the High Court). An accused is to be informed which QCs are available to conduct the defence.

An accused may decide that the defence will not be conducted by a QC but rather by an advocate without that status or a solicitor advocate without that status.

Advocates are specialist pleaders in court. In addition to their legal training, they have undergone specialist training in advocacy skills over several months prior to becoming advocates. Solicitor advocates have also had specialist training in such skills prior to being granted extended rights of audience. This training is of shorter duration to that given to advocates. The skills and experience of advocates and solicitor advocates are variable. The status of advocate does not mean that he or she will be more highly skilled than a solicitor advocate.

### Form 9A.3A-B

#### Rule 9A.3A(3)(b)

#### Form of information regarding counsel

An accused charged on indictment in the High Court must be represented either by an advocate or a solicitor advocate (a solicitor with extended rights of audience in the High Court). Advocates are specialist pleaders in court. In addition to their legal training, they have undergone specialist training in advocacy skills over several months prior to becoming advocates. Solicitor advocates have also had specialist training in such skills prior to being granted extended rights of audience. This training is of shorter duration than that given to advocates. The skills and experience of both advocates and solicitor advocates are variable. The status of advocate does not mean that he or she will be more highly skilled than a solicitor advocate.