



PRESS RELEASE

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MA response to Nick Herbert's proposals on out of court disposals

John Fassenfelt, Chairman of the Magistrates' Association said:

"The Magistrates' Association is very pleased that the valuable role of magistrates in community justice has been recognised. We have been raising concerns about the misuse and abuse of out of court disposals for the past three years and we are delighted that the Government has acted. We look forward to taking part in discussions regarding the details of these proposals."

END

For further information contact Ann Flintham, Communications Director 020 7387 6099 / 07812 038889

Notes for Editors

2011 will be the 650 anniversary of the institution of the office of Justice of the Peace (JP) and a senior judge recently stated that *its members have served the justice system with distinction ever since*. Currently just over 27,000 men and women - known as JPs or magistrates - deal with 95% of all criminal cases brought before courts and a significant number of civil matters including family work. Magistrates are not paid for attending court, receiving only modest expenses, subsistence and small recompense for any loss of earnings. They have to attend training, are mentored and regularly appraised and work within guidelines.

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