



PRESS RELEASE

28 Fitzroy Square
London W1T 6DD

E-mail: ann.flintham@magistrates-association.org.uk

Telephone: 020 7387 2353

Fax: 020 7383 4020

21 January 2010

Association is appalled by breach of security

The Magistrates Association is gravely concerned that the printing of directories containing the personal details of serving magistrates and legal advisers has been undertaken in prisons. The MA was alerted to the possibility of this in early January and sought immediate assurance from Her Majesty's Court Service that this was not the case. In a reply received 20 Jan 2010 HMCS reported that the details of Norfolk magistrates had been so compromised and that as far as they could tell there were no other such instances.

John Thornhill, Chairman of the Magistrates' Association, said

"This is a serious breach of security and if the Magistrates' Association had not raised the issue it would have gone undetected. The Association is seeking a categorical assurance that HMCS will check with every bench and confirm that no further breaches have occurred."

END

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