



**PRESS RELEASE**

28 Fitzroy Square  
London W1T 6DD

28 July 2010

E-mail: [ann.flintham@magistrates-association.org.uk](mailto:ann.flintham@magistrates-association.org.uk)

Telephone: 020 7387 2353

Fax: 020 7383 4020

**Magistrates' Association welcomes 2003 Licensing Act review**

The Magistrates' Association welcomes the current government action to review the 2003 Licensing Act. Our members deal with the consequences of alcohol consumption on a daily basis. There are now more women in custody for acts of violence than any other offence group. This may not be entirely unrelated to the changes in the regulation of alcohol that started with the Better Regulation Task Force Report in the early 1990s and ended in the passing of the 2003 Licensing Act.

John Thornhill, Chairman of the magistrates' Association said, "The Magistrates' Association always believed that transferring control of licensing to local councils and away from the courts was a mistake. There has been a failure to produce any national control over personal licence holders and this has resulted in a more expensive and less satisfactory system than before the Act came into force". The Association would urge the government to seriously consider returning control and management of the licensing of premises back to magistrates' courts.

END

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

The Magistrates' Association was established in 1920 and is the voice of the magistracy. Over 80% of magistrates are members and the Association supports them in their essential work, represents their views and interests, provides information and advice and contributes to their training.

PATRON: Her Majesty the Queen  
PRESIDENT: The Lord Chief Justice

CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL: John Thornhill JP  
DEPUTY CHAIRMEN: John Fassenfelt JP, John Howson JP  
HONORARY TREASURER: Mike Dodden JP  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE & ASSOCIATION SECRETARY: Sally Dickinson  
Registered Charity Number 216066