



PRESS RELEASE

28 Fitzroy Square
London W1T 6DD

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

Telephone: 020 7387 2353

Fax: 020 7383 4020

Magistrates' Association has serious reservations on court closure consultation and propose a re-structure of summary justice.

Against the background of the forthcoming spending review announcement the Magistrates' Association accepts the need to reduce expenditure in the magistrates' courts service but believes that the proposals for court closures run counter to the coalition agreement on the de-centralisation of services. The Association proposes a review to establish principles for a summary justice system at the heart of communities in England and Wales. It believes that principles of justice should drive the estates strategy rather than closure proposals based on savings costs driving summary justice. The Association proposes a coherent holistic strategy to overcome the years of salami-slicing of the courts services building on the need for flexibility in the use of courts.

The MA has produced a comprehensive paper in response to the consultation on court closures outlining detailed recommendations. An executive summary and the full document can be viewed at on the MA's website www.magistrates-association.org.uk in Association Views.

John Thornhill will be available on his mobile 07714 759466 for further comment on

Friday 15 October 8 -10 pm

Sunday 17 October 2 pm – 6 pm

Monday 18 October 1 pm – 3.30 pm

15 October 2010

END