



**PRESS RELEASE**

28 Fitzroy Square  
London W1T 6DD

E-mail: [ann.flintham@magistrates-association.org.uk](mailto:ann.flintham@magistrates-association.org.uk)  
Telephone: 020 7387 6099  
Fax: 020 7383 4020

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**Magistrates' Association response to Family Justice Review interim report**

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The Magistrates' Association welcomes the interim report of the Family Justice Review, recognising as it does the invaluable contribution that magistrates make within the family courts. Over half of all public law cases and a rising percentage of private law ones are handled by magistrates sitting in the family proceedings courts. The review proposals will present a significant challenge to all participants in family proceedings to measure up to its aspirations – not least HMCS as it seeks to reduce the resources allocated to support the judiciary in their vital work of protecting and promoting the best interests of the children whose cases come before them.

Malcolm Richardson, chairman of the Magistrates' Association Family Courts Committee said,

“We particularly welcome the proposal to create an integrated family justice service including the responsibilities now held by CAFCASS, and the devolution of decision making to a local level where magistrates and judges can exercise influence over the services they require to successfully discharge their duties to the children involved in litigation.”

31 March 2011

END

Further information is Ann Flintham, Communications Director 020 7387 6099/ 07812 038889

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