



PRESS RELEASE

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Consultation for dealing with dangerous dogs cases

Commenting on the consultation for dealing with dangerous dog cases, John Fassenfelt, Chairman of the Magistrates' Association said:

“Magistrates are seeing more dangerous dogs offences coming before them, so we welcome the development of this guideline. It will help magistrates decide the appropriate sentence for both the normally careful owner whose pet gets momentarily out of control and the negligent owner who doesn't care if their dog poses a risk to the public. It will also help magistrates decide if additional action to keep people safe is needed, such as banning someone from owning a dog.”

END

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

Notes for Editors

2011 is 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.

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

CHAIRMAN: John Fassenfelt JP

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN: Richard Monkhouse JP & Malcolm Richardson JP

HONORARY TREASURER: Mike Dodden JP

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