



23 February 2010

Dear Colleagues

Re: Ministry of Justice Consultation Paper on AGFS cuts

You may know that the Bar Council last week sent a letter before action to the MoJ, the first step on the road to issuing judicial review proceedings. The letter itself is on both the Bar Council and CBA websites and we attach a copy of it herewith. We also attach a much shorter press briefing which summarises the letter.

This decision to institute proceedings has not been taken lightly but we cannot simply do nothing when the government proposals threaten not just our incomes or livelihoods but the very criminal justice system in which we work and of which we are rightly so proud.

Even at this late stage we hope the government will see sense, stop this process and begin sensible negotiations with us. Indeed, that is what we have asked for in the letter, as you will see.

In the meantime, we attach a copy of the joint Bar Council/CBA response to the MoJ paper, rejecting both options and amplifying why any other response is impossible. We hope this will help you to frame your own responses. Lord Bach has extended the deadline for responding by one week to 3 March.

Yours

Nicholas Green QC  
Chairman of the Bar

Paul Mendelle QC  
Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association