



**GEORGE MATHERS & CO.**  
SOLICITORS, ADVOCATES IN ABERDEEN  
CRIMINAL & CIVIL LAW SPECIALISTS

RECEIVED 12 SEP 2005

**URGENT**

PFLA Consultation  
Access to Justice Division  
Scottish Executive  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor West  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3DG

Our Ref: PB.AB.Misc  
Your Ref:

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2005

Dear Sirs,

***Advice for All: Publicly funded assistance in Scotland – The Way Forward***

We are writing in relation to the above. we understand that Miss. Bentley of the Aberdeen Bar Association is submitting a full response and we are writing to confirm that we wish to associate ourselves with Miss. Bentley's response.

We further understand that you will have received a letter from Messrs. Graeme Murray & Co, and again, we would wish to endorse the content of that letter wholeheartedly.

We are firmly of the view that the various proposals would result in an overly bureaucratic system and would only serve to delay, frustrate and inconvenience all parties involved.

In addition to the various points made in the above referred to documents, we would also express concern that the proposals relating to the requirement of a further application for legal aid where a case is continued to Trial from the Intermediate Diet are incompatible with our duties to the Court under the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995. We fail to see how we can advise the Court at Intermediate Diet stage whether or not the case is likely to proceed to Trial in a situation where we will not know whether legal aid will be in place.

Yours faithfully,

Partners: George F.M. Mathers LL.B., N.P., William A. Findlay LL.B.(Hons), Dip., L.P., Leslie Green LL.B.(Hons), N.P., Paul S. Barnett LL.B.(Hons), Dip., L.P., Neil McRobert LL.B.(Hons), Dip., L.P.

*George Mathers is a Solicitor Advocate with Rights of Audience in the High Court of Justiciary*

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