



Association of Child Abuse Lawyers

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Jack Straw MP
The Labour Party
39 Victoria Street
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Date: 27th April 2010

Our Ref: PG.ACAL.AMC

Your Ref:

E-mail: peter@abneys.co.uk

Dear Sir,

Re: Article in the Law Society Gazette

As an association who represents the victims of abuse, the vast majority of whom are disadvantaged, poor, and would not be able to gain access to justice where it not for public funding we are concerned at an article which appeared in the Law Society's Gazette on the 9 April 2010, entitled 'Legal aid cuts will happen 'under any government', parties warn (copy attached).

The article explained that which ever party gets in Legal Aid will be targeted for cuts. Not only has public funding been already cut to the bone, and as such is not amenable to further cuts, but also the needs of this disadvantaged will be affected.

Before we advise our membership of the position we would like an assurance from you, leading up to an election, that the rights of the victims of abuse, whom we have previously understood to be at the top of the political agenda, will be ring-fenced from any cuts you propose to make to the Legal Aid budget.

Should you be unable to give us this undertaking we feel that we must draw your intentions to the attention of our members and/or the media.

We look forward to hearing from you by return.

Yours faithfully

Abney Garsden McDonald

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