



Statement

5th July 2011

Statement from Iain A Robertson CBE, Chairman of the Scottish Legal Aid Board in response to The Firm and its article *An opportunity to engage*:

“The Board has issued a statement today about the police station duty scheme which has been in operation since yesterday. We are satisfied that the statement is accurate and that advice is being provided quickly and effectively to suspects. The duty plans have been published and given to those people who are part of the scheme. There has been no silence on the part of the Board - we have kept the profession informed about how the scheme will operate. I am disappointed at the approach taken by many solicitors registered to provide criminal legal assistance, not to participate in the scheme. This will inevitably lead to increased costs which will have to be met from the Legal Aid Fund.

Aside from the above, we have no further comments to make. As for all media enquiries, please direct your enquiries to the Board’s Communications Department, and in particular, Marie-Louise Fox in her capacity as head of that department.”

Ends

Journalists please contact:
Mat Lopez tel (direct) 0131 240 1887.