

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

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The Editor
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BY EMAIL
29 June 2010

Dear Madam/Sir

RE: Criminal Damage – BMA News Review Feature 26 June 2010

The Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine welcomes the support of the BMA in its attempt to establish a separate specialty in forensic and legal medicine and the Faculty's efforts to set standards in this field of practice.

One of the recommendations of the *Violence Against Women and Children Taskforce Report*ⁱ was that the Faculty should set standards in this area of practice and this was supported in principle in the Government's interim responseⁱⁱ. The Faculty has produced interim quality standards which were the subject of a formal consultation which recently ended. These were broadly supported by all respondents and will now be refined in light of this consultation.

It is then crucial that these standards are implemented by those that commission forensic medical services. In principle, the Faculty supports the recommendation in Lord Bradley's reportⁱⁱⁱ that commissioning of services should be transferred to the NHS but it is essential that these services are adequately funded. Society and justice deserve no less.

Yours sincerely

**Professor Ian F Wall MB ChB(Hons) FFFLM FRCGP DMJ DOccMed
President**

ⁱ Responding to violence against women and children – the role of the NHS. The report of the Taskforce on the Health Aspects of Violence Against Women and Children. March 2010.

ⁱⁱ Interim Government Response to the Report of the Taskforce on the Health Aspects of Violence Against Women and Children. March 2010.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Bradley Report. Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system. April 2009.