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PRESS RELEASE

No: 305/2014

Date: 18th June 2014

Reform of Legal Aid

The Government notes the call by the GSD Opposition for a Government statement on the reform of legal aid and assistance.

The Government has a manifesto commitment to reform legal aid and assistance. It is doing so in consultation with affected parties, in particular with the Bar Council and is very close to finalising arrangements for a new system. This will provide for a fairer and more cost-effective system which will benefit those in need of assistance and provide value for money for the taxpayer.

It will nevertheless be recalled that in 16 years in office, the GSD failed to carry out the reform that they are now calling for. Further, in the four years in which the Leader of the Opposition was Minister for Justice, all he was able to produce was a draft Bill which was not even taken to Parliament.