



From: James Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 4 May 2005 3:32 PM
To: Committee, FHS (REPS)
Subject: Support for reforms - children & fairness matter

This letter is

- 1: to support reforms
- 2: to volunteer as a case-study/human interest example for media work

Dear Inquiry into Balancing Work and Family ,

I'm a professional working a four day week to look after my one-year old daughter. Her mother does the same too. It's great! I get a work-life balance and so does mum. My daughter, Ella, gets to spend quality time with both parents! So why am I telling you this?

I'm a single dad. And I'm so lucky!

I work, I have an adult life and I parent. Not merely a work/life balance but more, a work/family/life balance. The life my daughter and I have is exceptional. But it should be what usually happens after parents separate. Everybody is happy and Ella gets a good life. I'm not so much a single parent (with all it's connotations of victimhood), but a part-time parent!

After a divorce, too many children are kept away from their fathers.

Too many children have their memories of dad corrupted by the custodial parent.

Too many court orders for visitation are ignored by the custodial parent because they know that they can flaunt the law.

Too many fathers carry responsibilities without any rights (CSA payment responsibilities but no parental and relationship rights for their children).

Too many fathers suicide.

Too many children end up living with mum and her new de-facto. This is deeply worrying because living with a man who is not their real dad is very dangerous.

These children are at the highest risk of being abused or even killed by the adults they live with.

Too many fathers lose it all... they get kicked out of their homes, kept away from their children and then see more than half of their after-tax income disappear from their bank account each week.

The **presumption of shared parenting** should be enshrined in law as the starting point. I fully support any reforms. The laws need to be dramatically re-written. The procedures and rulings of the CSA need to be overhauled. These female-dominated industries need to be made balanced.