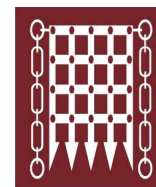


Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar
Civil justice reform in England and Wales - court modernisation, litigation costs and priorities for implementation of the Civil Liability Bill

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 7th February 2019

Venue: Central London



**WESTMINSTER
LEGAL POLICY
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Next steps for court modernisation in civil justice**
Senior speaker to be confirmed
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.25 **Modernising the system - accessibility, technology and automation**
How will the proposed shift to online justice affect the overall proceedings of the civil justice court, and what guidance and resources will be needed to ensure that the workforce is able to adapt to these changes? With legally qualified court staff set to take on further tasks that had previously been completed by judges, what are the stakeholder views on the potential change to allow staff to handle money claims valued at up to £25,000, as set out in the Civil Liability Bill? With the proposed modernisation changes to civil justice, will the public and potential litigants be able to make the best choices around the settlement routes that they pursue and what impact will these changes have on litigants in person in proceedings?
Andrew Twambley, Spokesperson, Access to Justice
Sophie Khan, Solicitor-Director, Sophie Khan & Co
Professor Roger Smith, London South Bank University
Senior representative, judiciary
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 - 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.30 - 10.55 Coffee
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 - 11.25 **Priorities moving forward for reform**
Senior speaker to be announced
- 11.25 - 12.30 **The impact of civil litigation reform - fixed recoverable costs, reducing fraudulent claims and access to justice**
Will the Government's reforms in the Civil Liability Bill be able to strike the correct balance between reducing fraudulent claims, whilst also retaining access to justice for claimants? What measures can be put in place to ensure that consumers make optimal use of alternative dispute resolution in civil justice in order to support the reduction of the number of cases making it to court and how can the Government look to ensure greater ease of use of this system? How will the proposed increase of the small claims track limit affect the overall efficiency of the civil courts, how can litigants in person continue to be supported in these hearings and what would be the impact on the wider sector? How has the banning of referral fees affected those working in personal injury claims and what would the impact be on the market of a potential overturning of this ban?
Brett Dixon, President, Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
James Heath, Partner, Keoghs and President Elect, Forum of Insurance Lawyers
Dr Andrew Higgins, Associate Professor, Civil Procedure, University of Oxford and General Editor, *Civil Justice Quarterly*
Senior speaker confirmed from **Association of British Insurers**
Senior representative, bar council
Questions and comments from the floor with senior speaker to be announced
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Next steps for policy**
David Parkin, Deputy Director for Civil Justice and Law, Ministry of Justice
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Legal Policy Forum