

**Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar**  
**The future for legal aid in England and Wales - scope, fees and access to justice**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Venue: Central London



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Ellie Reeves MP**, Member, House of Commons Justice Select Committee
- 9.05 - 9.35 **The post-implementation review of LASPO - key areas of discussion and their implications for policy**  
**Nick Goodwin**, Director, Access to Justice Policy, Ministry of Justice  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 9.45 **Access to justice and tackling unmet legal need - current priorities for reform**  
**Lord Bach**, Author, Bach Commission: *The Right to Justice* and Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Aid
- 9.45 - 10.35 **The future for the legal aid framework - scope, fees and the future of the market**  
*To what extent has LASPO delivered in its aim of discouraging unnecessary litigation claims being brought to court, whilst also promoting access to justice? Given the rise in court users applying for exceptional case funding, how can Government ensure that the supply of this service is not being outstripped by demand? With cuts to legal aid providers, how viable is the overall system of legal aid from the perspective of those administering it, and how can the market best adapt?*  
**Steve Hynes**, Director, Legal Action Group  
**Christopher Henley QC**, Vice-Chair, Criminal Bar Association  
**Christina Blacklaws**, Vice-President, The Law Society  
**Oliver Lodge**, Director, Ministry of Justice Value for Money Audit, National Audit Office  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Lord Bach**, Author, Bach Commission: *The Right to Justice* and Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Aid
- 10.35 - 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Ellie Reeves MP**, Member, House of Commons Justice Select Committee
- 10.40 - 11.05 Coffee
- 11.05 - 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP**, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Aid
- 11.10 - 11.35 **The administration of legal aid and advice - operational priorities**  
**Ruth Wayte**, Principal Legal Advisor, Legal Aid Agency  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.35 - 12.00 **Further options for reform: policy development outside England and Wales**  
**Denise Swanson**, Head, Access to Justice Unit, The Scottish Government  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.55 **Responding to the demand for alternative sources of legal advice - new providers, mediation and strengthening public legal education**  
*Further to the Bach Report's call for a national public legal education and advice strategy, what steps should be considered to better educate the public and make certain that those who are in need of legal aid and who qualify for it, use the system correctly? For example, in instances where service-users do not have access to legal advice, what more can be done to signpost them to alternative routes of dispute resolution, such as mediation? Given the importance of early legal help when undertaking litigation, what can be done to promote access to alternative sources of advice at the first stages of a case, in order to support both the service-user and the efficiency of court procedures? How effective has the supply of pro-bono services, voluntary and university providers been in satisfying increased demand in the sectors cut by LASPO - such as social welfare and private family law cases - and what can be done to ensure that those who are in need of legal advice are aware of other options at their disposal?*  
**Pamela Fitzpatrick**, Director, Harrow Law Centre  
**Tom Franklin**, Chief Executive Officer, Young Citizens  
**Joanna Sidhu**, Head of UK, CrowdJustice  
**Mary Banham-Hall**, Managing Director, Focus Mediation  
Speaker confirmed from the **Personal Support Unit**  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**  
**Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP**, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Aid  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Legal Policy Forum