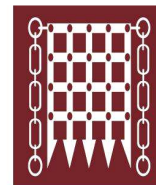


Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar
Civil justice reform in England and Wales - court modernisation, litigation costs and priorities for implementation of the Civil Liability Act

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 7th February 2019

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET



**WESTMINSTER
LEGAL POLICY
FORUM**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Faulks QC, former Minister of State for Civil Justice (2014-2016)
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Next steps for court modernisation in civil justice**
Richard Goodman, Change Director, HM Courts & Tribunals Service
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.25 **Modernising the system - accessibility, technology and automation**
How will the shift to online courts and legal services affect the overall proceedings of the civil justice court, and what guidance and resources will be needed to ensure that both the workforce and the clients are 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 Act? 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? What measures can be put in place to ensure that consumers make greater use of alternative dispute resolution in civil justice in order to reduce of the number of unnecessary cases making it to court and how can the Government look to ensure greater ease of use of this system?
Matthew Maxwell Scott, Director, Association of Consumer Support Organisations
Sophie Khan, Solicitor-Director, Sophie Khan & Co
Professor Roger Smith, Visiting Professor of Law, London South Bank University
James South, Managing Director, CEDR
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 - 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Faulks QC, former Minister of State for Civil Justice (2014 -2016)
- 10.30 - 10.55 Coffee
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Marks of Henley-on-Thames QC, Liberal Democrat Lords Spokesperson for Justice
- 11.00 - 11.25 **Priorities moving forward for reform**
Rt Hon Lord Justice Coulson, Lord Justice of Appeal and Deputy Head of Civil Justice, Civil Justice Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 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 Act be able to strike the correct balance between reducing fraudulent claims, whilst also retaining access to justice for claimants? 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*
James Dalton, Director, General Insurance Policy, Association of British Insurers
Martyn McLeish, Barrister, Cloisters Chambers and Civil (Private) Vice-Chair, Remuneration Committee, The Bar Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Implementing the Civil Liability Act and 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**
Lord Marks of Henley-on-Thames QC, Liberal Democrat Lords Spokesperson for Justice
Helen Crocker, Senior Researcher, Westminster Legal Policy Forum