



**WESTMINSTER
LEGAL POLICY
FORUM**

The future of the legal aid system – challenges, priorities and finance 8th November 2010

CONDITIONS FOR USE OF TRANSCRIPTS:

This document is intended to provide a timely reference for interested parties who are unable to attend the event to which it refers. Some portions are based on transcripts of proceedings and others consist of text submitted by speakers or authors, and are clearly marked as such. As such, apart from where it is indicated that the text was supplied by the speaker, it has not been possible for the transcript to be checked by speakers and so this portion of the document does not represent a formal record of proceedings. Despite best endeavours by Westminster Forum Projects and its suppliers to ensure accuracy, text based on transcription may contain errors which could alter the intended meaning of any portion of the reported content. Anyone who intends to publicly use or refer to any text based on the transcript should make clear that speakers have not had the opportunity for any corrections, or check first with the speaker in question. If in doubt please contact the forum first.

Contents

About this Publication	3
Agenda	4
<u>Westminster Legal Policy Forum and Session Chair’s opening remarks</u>	
Sean Cudmore , Senior Producer	5
Guy Opperman MP (<i>transcript</i>)	6
<u>The current political context</u>	
Jonathan Djanogly MP , Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice (<i>transcript</i>)	7
Questions and comments from the floor (<i>transcript</i>)	10
<u>The view from the Legal Services Commission</u>	
Carolyn Downs , Chief Executive, Legal Services Commission (<i>transcript</i>)	16
Questions and comments from the floor (<i>transcript</i>)	19
<u>‘A whole systems approach’ - the next steps for legal aid</u>	
Roger Smith , Director, Justice (<i>transcript</i>)	23
Questions and comments from the floor (<i>transcript</i>)	27
<u>Chairman’s closing remarks</u>	
Guy Opperman MP (<i>transcript</i>)	29
<u>Chairman’s opening remarks</u>	
Lord Bach , Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Legal and Constitutional Affairs (<i>transcript</i>)	30
<u>The view from the Law Society</u>	
Desmond Hudson , Chief Executive, Law Society of England and Wales (<i>transcript</i>)	31
Questions and comments from the floor (<i>transcript</i>)	34
<u>The future of the legal aid system - access, provision and the next steps for reform</u>	
Richard Buxton , Director of Operations, Refugee Council (<i>transcript</i>)	40
Max Hill , Vice-Chairman, Criminal Bar Association (<i>transcript</i>)	43
David Emmerson , Partner, Edwards Duthie and Chair, Legal Aid Committee, Resolution (<i>transcript</i>)	46
James Sandbach , Social Policy Officer, Legal Affairs, Citizens Advice (<i>transcript</i>)	48
Andy Hogan , Managing Director, Client Cover (<i>transcript</i>)	50
Questions and comments from the floor (<i>transcript</i>)	52
<u>Chairman’s and Westminster Legal Policy Forum thanks and closing remarks</u>	
Lord Bach , Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Legal and Constitutional Affairs (<i>transcript</i>)	63
Sean Cudmore , Senior Producer, Westminster Legal Policy Forum (<i>transcript</i>)	64
Press	65
List of Delegates Registered for Seminar	66
Contributor and Westminster Legal Policy Forum Biographies	71

About this Publication

This publication reflects proceedings at the Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar: The future of the legal aid system – challenges, priorities and finance held on 8th November 2010. The views expressed in the articles are those of the named authors, not those of the Forum or the sponsors, apart from their own articles.

Although Westminster Legal Policy Forum is grateful to all sponsors for the funding on which we depend, participation in events and publications is never conditional on being a sponsor. As well as funding ongoing operations, sponsorship enables the Forum to distribute complimentary copies of publications, and offer complimentary tickets for events, to Government ministers, parliamentarians and officials most involved in policy.

This publication is copyright. It's copying, in whole or in part, is not permitted without the prior written consent of the publishers. However, extracts of the text may be reproduced for academic or review purposes, subject to the conditions of use outlined in the previous page, providing they are accurate, are not used in a misleading context and the author, their organisation and the Westminster Legal Policy Forum are acknowledged. We would also appreciate being informed.

Westminster Legal Policy Forum

4 Bracknell Beeches
Old Bracknell Lane West
Bracknell,
Berkshire, RG12 7BW

T: 01344 864796

F: 01344 420121

publications@westminsterforumprojects.co.uk

Directors

Peter van Gelder

Chris Whitehouse