

JUSTICE PRESS RELEASE

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Legal aid reform: danger of ‘economic cleansing’ of the civil courts

JUSTICE today expressed its concern at the legal aid reforms to be announced in detail by the government.

JUSTICE fears that the poor will be excluded from the civil courts as a result of the combined effect of major cuts to legal aid and proposals to privatise many small claims through mandatory mediation.

Roger Smith OBE, JUSTICE’s director, said:

We face the economic cleansing of the civil courts. Courts and lawyers will be only for the rich. The poor will make do as best they can with no legal aid and cheap, privatised mediation. There will be no equal justice for all – only those with money.

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