

# JUSTICE PRESS RELEASE

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## **JUSTICE welcomes Lords vote to save jury trial**

JUSTICE, the all-party law reform and human rights organisation, today welcomed the vote by members of the House of Lords yesterday against the Fraud (Trials without a Jury) Bill. The Bill would have removed the right to jury trial in serious and complex fraud cases. The Bill was presented as necessary to deal with a small number of very long fraud cases; however, other measures have been implemented to reduce these trials to manageable lengths. The right to trial by jury, we believe, is an integral safeguard for fairness and public confidence in our criminal justice system, and should not be limited as the Bill proposed.

Roger Smith, Director of JUSTICE, said:

**Very long trials are a problem but there are other ways to solve it – some of which have only recently come into effect. The principle of trial by jury is a key constitutional safeguard in this country, and we are glad that the Lords recognised that is too important to be compromised in this way.**

A copy of our briefing for House of Lords Second Reading of the Fraud (Trials Without a Jury) Bill is attached. For further information please contact Roger Smith on 020 7762 6412 or at rsmith@justice.org.uk.