



The Law Society

## Civil justice reforms: campaign timeline

March 2013



The detailed timeline below sets out the substantial volume of work that the Law Society has undertaken in relation to civil justice reform on members' behalf over the past several years.

Since proposing our own reforms back in 2006, the Society has engaged closely with successive governments with an aim to protect access to justice and limit negative consequences for the profession.

In 2011 the Society launched the Sound Off For Justice campaign, a wide-ranging campaign covering both the legal aid and civil justice elements of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.

The Society continues to work hard to defend access to justice and the interests of our members.

Date	Event / Law Society action
March 2013	The lord chancellor and parliamentary under-secretary of state for justice, Helen Grant, were questioned in parliament on reductions in fixed costs, changes to the small claims limit and the pace of implementation of reforms following grassroots campaigning by Law Society members.
March 2013	The Society held meetings with shadow justice ministers to discuss the continuing civil justice campaign.
March 2013	Members of the House of Lords seek clarifications on proposed damages-based agreements regulations, following intervention by the Law Society.
March 2013	The Law Society responds to the Ministry of Justice consultation <i>Reducing the number and costs of whiplash claims: A consultation on arrangements concerning whiplash injuries in England and Wales</i> with a robust defence of access to justice. <a href="#">Read the Society's response</a>
March 2013	The Law Society President and Chief Executive held a tele-conference with the Lord Chancellor and senior MoJ officials to discuss concerns.
March 2013	The Law Society has organised a programme of 14 regional civil justice roadshow events. <a href="#">View details</a>
February 2013	Law Society reacts robustly to insurer's proposals on personal injury claims. <a href="#">Read press release</a>
January 2013	The Society publishes a campaigner briefing assisting members to lobby their local MP in relation to the pace of implementation of the civil justice reforms. <a href="#">Read the Society's campaigner briefing (PDF)</a>
January 2013	The Law Society met with several MPs to discuss concerns regarding the pace of implementation of civil justice reforms and the impact on solicitors and clients.
January 2013	The Law Society responds to the Ministry of Justice's call for evidence: <i>Extension of the RTA PI Scheme: Proposals on Fixed Recoverable Costs</i> . <a href="#">Read the Society's response</a>
November	The Law Society responds to the CPRC's consultation on the pre-action

2012	protocols for low value personal injury EL, PL and RTA claims. <a href="#">Read the Society's response</a>
November 2012	The Law Society president writes to the lord chancellor Chris Grayling expressing concern at the pace of implementation of the civil justice reforms and calling for a delay. <a href="#">Read the president's letter to the lord chancellor (PDF)</a>
November 2012	The Law Society president writes to justice minister Helen Grant criticising the process by which proposals for fixed costs have been calculated. <a href="#">Read the president's letter to Helen Grant (PDF)</a>
November 2012	The Ministry of Justice issues a call for evidence in relation to costs available in the extended RTA scheme: <i>Extension of the RTA PI Scheme: Proposals on Fixed Recoverable Costs</i> . <a href="#">Read the Ministry's call for evidence (PDF)</a>
October 2012	The Civil Procedure Rules Committee (CPRC) issues a consultation on the pre-action protocols for low value personal injury employer liability, public liability and RTA claims
October 2012	The Ministry of Justice publishes its analysis of responses received to the call for evidence in relation to proposals to extend the RTA scheme to PL and EL <a href="#">Read the Ministry's analysis (PDF)</a>
July 2012	Professor Paul Fenn publishes his analysis of the RTA portal process: <i>Evaluating the Low Value Road Traffic Accident Process</i> <a href="#">Read professor Fenn's report (PDF)</a>
June 2012	The Law Society organises regional civil justice road show events in Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Cardiff, Birmingham and London.
May 2012	The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act receives Royal Assent <a href="#">Read the Act</a>
May 2012	The Law Society responds to the Ministry of Justice's call for evidence in relation to extend the RTA scheme to include employers' and public liability claims up to the value of £25,000 <a href="#">Read the Society's response to the call for evidence</a>
April 2012	The President and CEO hold a private dinner with the lord chancellor, Kenneth Clark MP and the justice minister, Jonathan Djanogly MP to discuss implementation of part 2 of the LASPO Bill among other issues.
March 2012	The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill underwent its Third Reading debate in the House of Lords. <a href="#">Read the Society's briefing to all peers</a>
March 2012	The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill underwent its report stage in the House of Lords. The Law Society worked with a number of concerned peers to table a number of amendments to part 2 of the bill. <a href="#">Read the Law Society's briefing on its proposed amendments</a>

March 2012	The Law Society attends the Liberal Democrat Spring Conference to raise awareness of the impact of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill and accompanying reforms among party delegates and to urge parliamentarians to support proposed amendments.
February 2012	The Ministry of Justice issues a call for evidence in relation to proposals to extend the RTA scheme to include employers' and public liability claims up to the value of £25,000. <a href="#">Read the call for evidence</a>
January 2012	In response to direct pressure from the Law Society and others the government announced a delay in the implementation of part 2 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill from October 2012 until April 2013. <a href="#">Read the Society's statement on the delay</a>
December 2011 – February 2012	The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill undergoes its committee stage in the House of Lords. <a href="#">Read the Society's briefing to peers (PDF)</a>
November 2011	The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill moves to the House of Lords for further consideration. In November 2011 it undergoes its second reading. <a href="#">Read the Law Society's briefing to all peers (PDF)</a>
November 2011	The Law Society president briefs a number of peers at a meeting in parliament immediately ahead of the Lords' second reading of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.
October 2011	The Law Society organises regional civil justice road show events in Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Cardiff, Cambridge and London.
October 2011	The Law Society writes to members of the House of Commons Transport Select Committee to voice concerns about the impact of the government's civil justice reforms on the ability of accident victims to seek legal redress. <a href="#">Read the press statement accompanying the Society's action</a>
October 2011	The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill has its report stage in the House of Commons. <a href="#">Read the Law Society's briefing to all MPs (PDF)</a>
September / October 2011	The Law Society holds events at all three main party conferences highlighting the impact of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill and accompanying civil justice reforms to party delegates and parliamentarians.
July 2011	The Law Society president gives oral evidence to the House of Commons Public Bill Committee scrutinising the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill. <a href="#">Read a transcript of the evidence session (PDF)</a>
June-October 2011	The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill underwent detailed committee stage consideration by a House of Commons Public Bill Committee. <a href="#">Read the Law Society's written evidence to the PBC</a>

June 2011	The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill has its second reading debate in the House of Commons. <a href="#">Read the Law Society's briefing to all MPs (PDF)</a>
June 2011	The Ministry of Justice publishes the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, part 2 of which implements many of the Jackson reforms in relation to the operation of conditional fee agreements. <a href="#">Read the bill (as published in June 2011)</a>
June 2011	The Law Society publishes its formal response to the <i>Solving Disputes in the County Courts</i> consultation. <a href="#">Read the Society's response (PDF)</a>
May 2011	The Law Society president voices concerns about the government's civil justice reforms to an audience of MPs and peers at a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.
May 2011	The Law Society chief executive warns the Health Select Committee about the impact the Jackson proposals will have on the ability of victims of clinical negligence to seek legal redress. <a href="#">Read a report of the chief executive's evidence</a>
March 2011	The government publishes further proposals for the reform of the civil justice system in England and Wales: <i>Solving Disputes in the County Courts: Creating a Simpler, Quicker and More Proportionate System</i> <a href="#">Read the consultation paper (PDF)</a>
March 2011	The government publishes its formal response to the public consultation on the Green Paper proposals. <a href="#">Read the government response (PDF)</a>
February 2011	The president writes to the lord chancellor, Kenneth Clarke and the justice minister, Jonathan Djanogly MP to influence Ministry of Justice policy during the public consultation on civil litigation.
February 2011	The Law Society publishes its formal response to the public consultation on the Green Paper's proposals <a href="#">Read the Society's response (PDF)</a>
November 2010	The government publishes its proposals for civil justice reform: <i>Proposals for Reform of the Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales – Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations</i> <a href="#">Read the Green Paper (PDF)</a>
October 2010	The Law Society publishes its formal response to Lord Justice Jackson's final report. <a href="#">Read the response</a>
February 2010	The then president, Linda Lee and her fellow office holders met with the team of shadow Conservative justice ministers led by Dominic Grieve MP to brief him on the Society's position on Jackson.
December 2009	Jackson LJ publishes his final report: <i>Review of Civil Litigation Costs: Final Report</i> <a href="#">Read the final report</a>
September	The then president, Robert Heslett and the CEO, Desmond Hudson met with

2009	the then shadow justice secretary, Dominic Grieve MP to brief him on the Society's position on the Jackson review.
July 2009	The Law Society publishes its formal response to Lord Justice Jackson's preliminary report. <a href="#">Read the response</a>
May 2009	Lord Justice Jackson publishes his preliminary findings: <i>Review of Civil Litigation Costs: Preliminary Report</i> <a href="#">Read the preliminary report</a>
April 2009	The Law Society surveys its members in relation to the civil litigation costs and funding reforms proposed by Lord Justice Jackson. <a href="#">Read the results</a>
July 2008	Ministry of Justice produces formal government response to public consultation on case track limits and the claims process for personal injury claims.
July 2007	Law Society responds to case track limits and the claims process for personal injury claims consultation <a href="#">Read the response (PDF)</a>
April 2007	Department of Constitutional Affairs public consultation on case track time limits and the claims process for personal injury claims.
November 2006	The Law Society's Research Unit publishes, as part of its small claims survey, details of injury victims' experiences of bringing a lower value personal injury claim with the benefit of legal advice and representation. <a href="#">Read the details (PDF)</a>
February 2006	Law Society publishes <i>Compensation Fast and Fair</i> a discussion document containing the Society's suggestions for further improvements to streamline the claims process for lower value claims. <a href="#">Read the document (PDF)</a>