

# A LEADING QC EXPLAINS WHY LEGAL AID CUTS AND CHANGES IN REGULATION WILL CREATE..

# Injustice for all



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**WHAT is about to happen to your publicly funded legal system, will not save you any money but it will create injustices on an industrial scale.**

Recently, the Prime Minister could not translate the meaning of the Magna Carta and yet it is the rights under that Great Charter that he is planning to steal from you.

Now his Government has told the nation that cuts to the legal aid system and regulation of lawyers are a great saving to the taxpayer.

*They are not.*

Delays in our court system are now so great that any cost saved is overtaken by the cost of delay hidden from the public on another balance sheet.

It costs £110 a minute to run a courtroom with a jury.

The reason for those delays can be squarely laid at the door of those private companies who the politicians like to pretend have saved you money - the likes of G4S, SERCO, GEO-AMY and APPLIED LANGUAGE SOLUTIONS.

Someone is profiting out of these new arrangements, but I guarantee you it is not you.

G4S holds a five-year contract for the provision of front-of-house security around the country, at all courts with the exception of the Old Bailey. It has 800 staff, and charges £11.49 an hour for their services. It pays them £6.45 an hour - which works out at a gross annual profit of £41,932,800.

You can now understand why the head of G4S was so untroubled at having to give £50million back to the Government when it so supremely failed to fulfil its Olympic contract.

We can only speculate as to why politicians and civil servants are so eager to give contracts to companies who get rich quick yet cost the taxpayer more money.

At present whether you are homeless or a politician caught fiddling your expenses, you have access to the exactly the same independent legal representation.

*That is all about to change.*

This Government is planning to introduce what is called a Quality Assurance Scheme for Advocates. It has nothing to do with assuring

## TIPPING POINT

Profit will be the priority below the Magna Carta



It has everything to do with allowing the likes of G4S and Co-op to take over publicly-funded legal services.

Solicitors and the independent Bar will disappear. Your legal services will be provided by these vast organisations whose only aim will be to ensure retaining their contracts year on year. My

chambers' motto is "Do right, fear no one". That is a motto which most, if not all advocates live by. It is exactly those lawyers who have uncovered some of the worst conduct by our police and politicians.

If this Government has its way, that independence and fight will disappear from the legal profession and be replaced by inhouse lawyers whose only mantra is to ensure a contract renewal. Your access to the



**MISTAKE**  
David Cameron

same lawyers as the politician will vanish. In removing your rights, none of your money is being saved, it is merely redistributed to the private sector monsters. The only thing that is saved is the politician's neck.

If you are finding this difficult to credit, you only

have to look at what else this Government and the last have done to our legal system. Our judiciary has been prevented from speaking out even when public interest demands it. They are proposing to introduce secrecy into the civil court room on the pretence they cannot defend civil actions brought by those who claim to have been tortured. Our civil courts have all the power they need to protect the national interest.

The real reason was disclosed recently in their own impact assessment of the Justice and Security Bill. Surprise, surprise, the main benefit of this legislation was to prevent the public from discovering that its own Government had involved us in extraordinary rendition and torture.

*We now live in a sham democracy. A country where we get a vote on everything but a say in nothing.*

This Government has placed its regulators to muzzle the very people who expose the wrongdoing of the banker and the politician.

Along the way it has hidden behind the empty notion of "public consultation".

Government and local councils seek our views on almost everything they do. It gives the impression that we actually have a say. It is simply a device to avoid challenge to their decisions by the court.

Do not allow the rights that have been with us for hundreds of years to be stolen from you.

You already know that certain individuals within this Government consider us to be beneath them.

*It is time we stopped them treating*

It's a sham democracy. We get a vote on everything but a say in nothing

## HOW IT WILL AFFECT YOU

**THE rules governing the legal profession were relaxed last year to allow non-lawyers to own or invest in law firms.**

Big brands such as Tesco and Co-op are stepping into the market. Critics say profit will become more important than the client's interests.

And they argue changes to

off the £2.2 billion budget - make it even more lucrative for big firms to take up law.

You won't be able to claim legal aid for social welfare law - complaints about housing and benefits - and all parts of family law except domestic violence.

These firms will be offering low-price, fixed-fee tariffs for