



Re: No-win, no-fee is disgraceful and something must be done - *The Times*, 17 November

Lord Neuberger is right when he says cuts to legal aid will reduce access to justice and deny people legal advice.

But his comments about 'no win no fee' are wide of the mark for many personal injury cases. In areas such as road traffic claims and workplace claims, so-called 'success fees' are fixed at a small percentage of the costs. Fees are only high on the relatively rare occasions when personal injury cases are forced all the way to trial by defendants who refuse to admit their own liability.

Many injury victims will be hit twice by the Government's proposals. First, in medical cases, they will be denied legal aid; then they will be forced to use a restrictive no win no fee system which will deprive many of the full damages to which they are entitled, or price them out of the justice system altogether.

Today (November 21) opening the debate on the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, Lord McNally said people who go to a lawyer often find it expensive. For personal injury victims, this Bill will make access to justice unaffordable.

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