



Re: 'Small claims court limits may be lifted' *The Daily Telegraph*, 31 January 2013

The notion that Justice Secretary Chris Grayling could consider responding to the threat of legal action by punishing injured people simply beggars belief.

The Government is currently consulting on changes to the small claims court for some limited types of personal injury cases which could, in themselves, have a serious impact on access to justice for victims. An arbitrary increase of the small claims court limit to £15,000 for all types of case, which is what Mr Grayling is reported to be considering, would force seriously injured people into a system which is fit only for settling disputes about faulty goods and services, not for dealing with complex matters of law.

Surely no responsible Government would react in such an irrational and indiscriminate way to a legitimate legal challenge? A petulant side-swipe at injured people as punishment for an attempt to exercise the democratic right to scrutinise the Government's competence and motives would be a very sinister precedent indeed.

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