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Cost of litigation

Sir, The government is increasing some court fees by more than 600 per cent this April, spelling disaster for access to justice. We fear that the cost of litigation will increase, people will be priced out of the courts and small businesses will be saddled with debts that they are unable to recover.

The increases risk damaging the UK's reputation as a global leader in commercial dispute resolution. Our competitors in New York and Singapore will seem much more attractive to those making commercial claims.

Most of our warnings to the government in its 2013 consultation have not been heeded. Worse still, the government held a private consultation in December 2014 to which none of our organisations or members were allowed to respond.

The government has made its decision on scant evidence. We urge it to reconsider.

ANDREW CAPLEN

President, Law Society

ALISTAIR MACDONALD QC

Chairman, Bar Council

FRANCES EDWARDS

President, Chartered Institute of Legal Executives

NICK PARSONS

President, Forum of Insurance Lawyers

JOHN SPENCER

President, Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

PENELOPE REED QC

Chairwoman, Chancery Bar Association