

Factsheet

Unintended Consequences: the cost of the Government's Legal Aid Reforms

The Law Society commissioned King's College London to identify and where possible quantify the "*likely impact on spending from the public purse*" of the Government's proposed changes to the scope of legal aid.

The report investigated private family law, social welfare law and clinical negligence, which account for 85 percent of the proposed savings both in terms of expenditure (c. £239 million) and the total number of cases (c. 504,500) to be removed from scope.

The final report, "*Unintended Consequences: the cost of the Government's Legal Aid Reforms,*" is now available and the key findings include:

- Knock-on costs in the region of £139 million per annum
- Net savings of £100 million per annum, against a gross saving of £239 million
- A net saving of 42 percent of that predicted by Government
- Knock-on costs of over £80 million per annum passed to other Departments
- NHS hit by £28 million increase in litigation costs
- Massive increase in mediation predicted at a cost of over £42 million per annum
- Large demand for alternative advice requiring additional £53 million funding

The figures on the next page illustrate these key findings. The report concludes by calling for further research into the exact knock-on costs of the proposals before they become law.

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Figure 1: Government Savings against Estimated Knock-on Cost (£ millions)

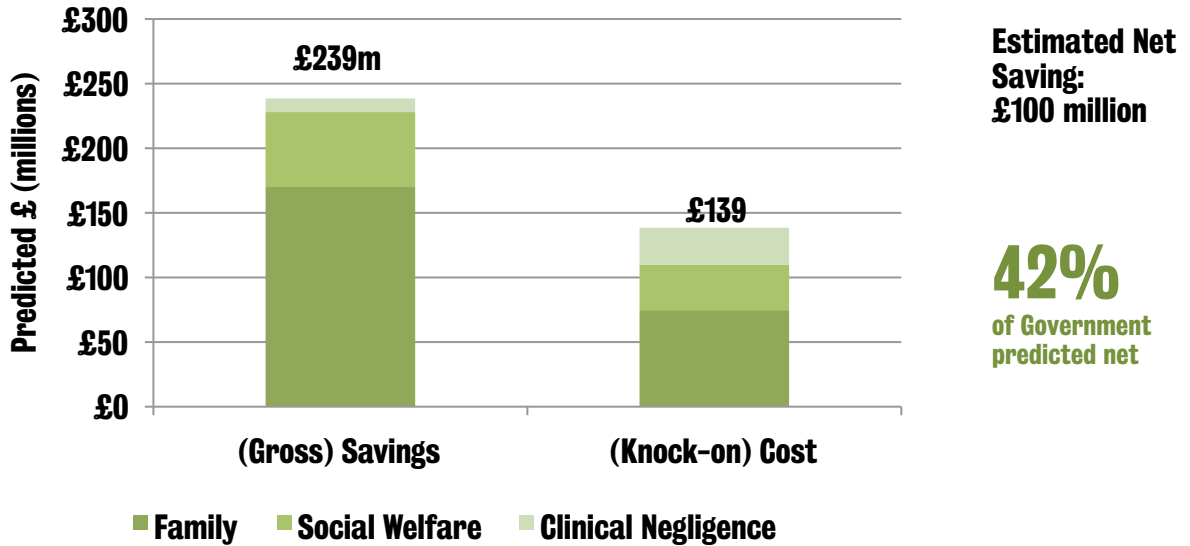


Figure 2: Key Knock-on Costs (£ millions) – Total £139 million

