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Area of Study: **Access to justice/Legal Aid/European Convention on Human Rights/EU law**



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Research Title: **What impact has Part 1 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 ("LASPO") had on the advice-giving landscape in Liverpool?**

Description of Research: **LASPO came in to force on 1 April 2013. This significantly reduced the types of cases in respect of which people can be offered legal advice and/or representation funded by the state (legal aid).**

**In order to qualify for legal aid in cases specifically excluded by S.8 and Schedule 1 LASPO (which includes most cases concerning welfare benefits; debt; employment; education, private family law and immigration) individuals must now satisfy the exceptional case funding (ECF) criteria contained in s.10 LASPO. The ECF provisions are meant to provide a safety net to ensure that individual's human rights and access to justice are safeguarded.**

**The research will therefore examine the tensions between the operation of the ECF regime and the UK's obligations to ensure that individuals have effective access to the Courts in accordance with Article 47 Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and article 6 ECHR and related articles of the ECHR, in particular articles 8 (which concerns the right to respect for private and family life) and 13 (which requires that individuals who have suffered a violation of their convention rights have access to an effective remedy in their home state). In particular it will examine the experiences of individual advice seekers in Liverpool and explore how the UK resolves or may resolve these tensions with a particular focus on private family law and immigration cases.**