

THE TIMES



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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MYTHS ABOUT THE LAW

Sir, The Secret Barrister fails to debunk the myth that civil legal aid ensures access to justice (“Bar humbug: lies about the law”, Saturday Review, Aug 29). In reality legal aid funds access to lawyers for an eligible minority. Too often the only beneficiaries of costly legally aided personal injury litigation were lawyers, providing self-serving over-optimistic advice, spawning hopeless cases based on junk science and unsubstantiated scares: state sponsored fiascos underwritten by the taxpayer. Thankfully, claims funding is now mostly privatised by no win, no fee. Access to justice is available to all, free at the point of need; payment of legal fees is by successful result, not reward for failure.

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