

From: Stephanie Needleman [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 April 2019 12:51
To: Immigration
Subject: Simplification of the Immigration Rules Consultation

Dear Law Commission,

I am writing in regards to your consultation on Simplification of the Immigration Rules (the "Rules"). Regrettably JUSTICE does not currently have capacity to submit a detailed response before the deadline of 26 April 2019, however we wanted to express our strong support for the principle of simplifying the immigration rules and make a couple of comments.

We agree that there is a need for an overhaul of the Rules in order to facilitate access to justice. The length, poor drafting and complexity of the current rules are a fundamental obstacle to effective participation in the immigration process by lay users and can leave them confused about their immigration status and rights. We agree with the principles that you have identified to underpin the re-drafting of the Rules. In particular we'd like to point out the potential benefits of harnessing digital technologies to enable the rules to be presented in a clear, easy to read format, with additional explanations where required. We again strongly agree that the Immigration Rules should be drafted so as to be accessible to the non-expert user, in particular in light of legal aid cuts and increasing number of LIPs as well as issues with the poor quality of some immigration representatives and advisers.

We refer the Commission to JUSTICE's recent report [Understanding Courts](#), which aimed to improve the participation of courts and tribunal users in their own proceedings. Paragraphs 2.38 to 2.48 of which consider ways in which substantive law can be made more accessible.

Kind regards,

Stephanie



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