

*These notes refer to the Access to Justice Act 1999
(c.22) which received Royal Assent on 27th July 1999*

ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT 1999

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A.

FUNDING OF LEGAL SERVICES (PARTS I & II, SECTIONS 1-34)

Background

Advice sector

43. There are over 1,500 non-profit-making advice agencies in England and Wales. They receive their funding from many different sources, mainly local authorities, but also the National Lottery Charities Board, central Government, the Legal Aid Board, charities and business.
44. The provision of advice services is not spread consistently across the country. Some areas appear to have relatively high levels of both legal practitioners and voluntary outlets, while others have little or none. For example, the Legal Aid Board's South East Area has one Citizens Advice Bureau per 46,000 people, but in the East Midlands 138,000 people share a Citizens Advice Bureau. The Government believes that the fragmented nature of the advice sector obstructs effective planning, and prevents local needs for legal advice and help from being met as rationally and fully as possible.