

Richard Burgon response to Court of Appeal ruling on unlawfulness of certain cuts to legal aid for prisoners

Richard Burgon MP, Labour's Shadow of Secretary State for Justice, responding to the Court of Appeal ruling on the unlawfulness of certain cuts to legal aid for prisoners, said:

"This Tory Government has got it wrong on prisons yet again.

"Our prison service must be fit for purpose. That means a focus on rehabilitation and keeping us all safe. Having a proper system for legal advice for prisoners is an important part of the mix – only when prisons run efficiently can the public have confidence.

"The Tories promised a rehabilitation revolution, but have failed to reduce reoffending because prisons are violent, overcrowded and understaffed.

"That's why Labour have tabled an amendment to the Prison and Courts Bill designed to improve the necessary legal advice available in prisons.

"This is part of a wider picture of access to justice denied under this Tory Government. Their legal aid cuts across the board and Employment Tribunal Fees have blocked access to justice for ordinary people the length and bread of the country."