



A Justice Perspective

Professor the Right Honourable Lord Justice Ryder, Trustee

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Given the aims of our founder Lord Nuffield in settling his charitable bequest, the centrality of justice to our vision and strategy should come as no surprise. We have always been true here in the Foundation to broader well-being issues that concern individuals, in the research which we invite. We are interested in the rule of law in the broadest sense; that is, we want to develop research and capability into all manner of access to justice questions, including from the effects of the availability or non-availability of public funding, through the various and nuanced aspects of vulnerability, to the measurement and analysis of data about outcomes. And that is outcomes, again, in the broadest sense. We are not just interested in the incremental development of the common law to meet the needs of citizens, though I would certainly encourage you to direct your minds to that, whether it be in respect of substantive or procedural fairness. But we are particularly concerned about citizens' social and health well-being, and the impact on the same of unmet or poorly-met need for redress.

The cross-disciplinary data-analysis issues that are open to examination are an important part of our focus on data and data ethics, and the treatment of data relating to the citizen, in particular by central and local government and public-sector agencies. We would like to interest you in a conversation about whether and to what extent justice is still the glue that holds society together. Do we still have common values, and if so, what are they? To what extent do our institutions, including the judiciary as a limb of the State, reflect those values? Have the ethics of our professions been devalued, and can and should they be used to inform better-quality practice in the city, in the medical profession and so on? These are just some of the themes that have not been brought to us in the last two years that I have been a Trustee of this Foundation.

One of our key themes is trust. Trust is not only part of justice; it is an outcome measure of the way society works. For some of us, we refer to it as observational justice. Do citizens affected by disasters and traumatic incidents feel that society's response in its role as the safe guarder of last resort, the welfare protector, and ultimately in the delivery of justice, is it successful when things go wrong? My former colleague, Martin Moore-Bick, will have an opportunity over the next few months and years to be looking at just that question, but you may want to ask, does he have the resources to do it? If so, what should those resources be? What should be the outcome measures? What data should he be relying upon?

As the judiciary embark on a £1 billion reform programme, which takes us through to 2022, in England and Wales, which seeks to provide improved access to justice in a digital world, where we seek to maintain the independence of the judiciary in somewhat troubled times, and the pre-eminence of English law on the international stage in very definitely troubled

times, you may be interested in helping research the success of that programme. After all, it has to be baselined and thought through. Are we likely to achieve, and are we achieving, the purposes that we have set ourselves? Our conversation will lead to a major international symposium next year, and by then, we hope to have enticed some of you to be bold, on a cross-disciplinary basis, and join the justice debate.