

# Yasmin Qureshi responds to Government consultation announcement into HM Courts & Tribunals Service estate

**Yasmin**

**Qureshi MP, Labour's Shadow Justice Minister**, responding to the Government's announcement of a consultation into the HM Courts and Tribunals Service estate, said:

"This consultation should not be a smokescreen for yet more court closures and staff losses which would further undermine local access to our justice system.

"Tory cuts have already led to the closure of hundreds of courts and the axing of thousands of court staff.

"There are obvious fears that this consultation is just part of the Government's plan to cut hundreds of millions of pounds more from the Ministry of Justice budget by 2020.

"The Government should not proceed with any further court closures until its promised Courts Bill is published and its reforms can be subjected to full parliamentary scrutiny."

Ends