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Backlog of employment tribunal cases balloons 77 per cent

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The backlog of cases at employment tribunals has risen 77 per cent in a year after the number of cases rocketed following the scrapping of fees in July 2017.

In the three months ended September 2018 outstanding cases hit 23,700, up from 13,360 in the same period in 2017.

There were 36,900 single claims in the year to 30 September, up 88 per cent from 19,600 the year before.

The coalition government introduced fees of up to £1,200 for employment tribunals in 2013, which it said would reduce the number of weak or vexatious cases.

However, in 2017 the Supreme Court ruled the fees were illegal, forcing the government to abolish them and sending the number of cases soaring.

The court service has also been subject to staff cuts over the period.

Since July 2013 when fees were reintroduced to October 2018 the number of staff employed by HM Courts and Tribunal Service has fallen 17 per cent from 19,200 to 15,990.

Staff costs have been cut from £41.2m to £38.5m over the same period.

Sophie Vanhegan, a partner at employment law firm GQLittler, said: "Limited staff resources means tribunals are struggling to deal with the deluge of claims since fees were abolished.

You can read the full article [here](#).