



Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
Annual Report and Accounts 2010

CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS
1990–2010

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APIL officers and executive committee members

Objectives

To promote full and just compensation
for all types of personal injury;

To promote and develop expertise in
the practice of personal injury law;

To promote wider redress for personal
injury in the legal system;

To campaign for improvements in
personal injury law;

To promote safety and alert the public
to hazards wherever they arise;

To provide a communication network
for members.

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“...I look forward to another twenty years supporting the work of this much needed association.”

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It was an honour and a privilege to be elected APIL's president in the association's twentieth anniversary year.

At our annual conference, celebrations were intertwined with discussions of many serious issues. Jackson LJ's recommendations loomed large over proceedings along with the uncertainty of an imminent general election and a likely new government. A government that would inevitably be focussed on dealing with a huge budget deficit leaving for us the issue as to the extent to which civil justice would be a priority.

We were expecting new blood in Parliament, which we certainly have but, were surprised to see a ghost of governments past, in the form of Lord Young of Graffham: a Peer appointed by Cameron to undertake a review of health and safety and disappointingly to rake over old ground around the "compensation culture" myth.

APIL has spent years responding to, and dealing with, misinformation from many different sources and we have proved time and time again that the compensation culture does not exist, yet the perception of it remains! I personally relished the opportunities APIL gave to me to face Lord Young and others - putting forward our views, in what has become an ongoing, relentless crusade.

Over the course of my presidential year, APIL has questioned more and more why Sir Rupert's reforms are needed. They truly have become a sledgehammer to crack a nut, holding less and less relevance, as significant change came about through the introduction of the new RTA claims process.

Another big issue in 2010 was the cost of clinical negligence litigation to the NHS. I made a commitment in my inaugural speech to engage constructively to try to shape the outcome in the best interests of our clients. We consulted widely with our members, I talked directly with many and we met several times with the NHSLA to come up with positive proposals for change, which are now with the government. I hope it recognises the importance of this collaborative work and the benefits our proposals would bring.

Many past APIL presidents have commented on the challenging nature of the role. As my year comes to an end, I certainly understand more clearly those challenges and demands. I have been fortunate to have the support of my partners at *Stewarts Law*, as well as the APIL staff in

Nottingham. I have also enjoyed the support of the APIL officers and the EC, as well as many APIL members I have met throughout the year. My thanks to all those I have worked with and I look forward to another twenty years supporting the work of this much needed association.

**Muiris
Lyons**
PRESIDENT

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President's Report

“...I was made most welcome and continue to enjoy working with a committed team of individuals”

06



At our 2010 conference, we celebrated the start of APIL's twentieth year

and its dedication to fighting for the rights of injured people. The

event at our conference hotel, Celtic Manor brought together original founders Michael Napier, John Melville Williams QC, Rodger Pannone and many more who have supported the organisation right from its very early meetings, at the Howard Hotel, in London.

During our annual general meeting we saw individual celebrations for APIL members elected onto the current executive committee and sadness as we once again said some fond farewells.

Amanda Stevens and Fred Tyler departed the committee, after long terms of dedicated service. Both gave so much time, energy and commitment to the cause.

John McQuater's presidential year came to a close, but his enthusiasm, huge knowledge and dedication remained with the EC as John took on the role of Immediate Past President and he continued his travels around the country, with Nigel Tomkins, to offer APIL's much loved PI updates.

Over 300 APIL members met in Newport to welcome Muiris Lyons, partner at Stewarts Law as our new president and David Bott, Managing Partner at Bott & Co, as vice president. Christopher Limb and I were both delighted to be

re-elected, once again. Working with APIL's dedicated team of staff remains both a pleasure and a privilege. I attended the APIL office on three occasions during this financial year and, as ever, I was made most welcome and continue to enjoy working with a committed team of individuals.

“New blood” onto the EC came from Gordon Dalyell, a partner at Digby Brown, LLP, in Edinburgh and Jane Horton, Partner, Irwin Mitchell, Leeds. The ongoing efforts and commitment by Stuart Kightley and Matthew Stockwell were recognised, as they gained re-election. Since his re-election, Stuart has also taken over from David Bott as APIL's representative on the Law Society Council and their Civil Justice Committee.

Following difficulties encountered with some members not receiving their ballot papers and concerns expressed regarding

the nomination and canvassing rules/procedures, I undertook a consultation with the membership and as a result, APIL's canvassing rules were changed, approved by the EC, under the powers set out in Article 98. APIL's election management also went ‘under the spotlight’, with the aim of ensuring ongoing efficient election procedures - fit for purpose for our association.

In 2010, APIL's executive committee met formally on seven occasions, in London, Manchester and Nottingham. In addition, the officers (APIL directors) met quarterly with Denise Kitchener, CEO in London and Manchester.

Once again, many firms provided meeting rooms, refreshments and time to support APIL's campaigning and other activities. Thank you.

In Nottingham, the average staff headcount for the year was 28, and Denise and her team ended the year, with a move of address from Castle Quay, to Alder Court. By taking advantage of a slow property market in the city and after 18 years of renting properties, APIL invested wisely in modern self contained offices, close to the city centre, located in a gated business park. The purchase provides APIL with an important asset for the next twenty years and an excellent working environment for our staff.

**Stephen
Lawson**
SECRETARY



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Secretary's Report



In 2010, we committed funds to a twelve-month programme

of activity driven by global communications agency McCann Erikson. This followed growing concerns from our members regarding the approaches being

made to the general public when injured through no fault of their own and a continued desire to build awareness of a trusted quality kite mark.

Increasing recognition of APIL's kite mark is one of a number of important objectives and we are seeing through the development of planned activity that APIL is building and increasing its conversations with the public, via the internet with the aim of increasing awareness that APIL and its members are the ones who really are fighting for what is right, on their behalf.

As for our political campaigning, I started 2010 with mixed feelings as we anticipated the contents of Lord Jackson's report. Over the year a great deal of time, thought and effort was given by our executive committee, APIL members and staff to actively consider proposals for yet more change and the impact they would have on injured people. As I write this, what is on the horizon still isn't clear, but APIL holds strength in numbers and we must use that power to ensure this government does not put cost-cutting ahead of victims' rights.

Looking ahead on the campaign front, we will face another year of serious challenges and I suspect another fair few fights for what is right.

Internally, our activities and services are driven by the five key objectives with our current strategic plan:

- To grasp the hearts and minds of claimant personal injury lawyers to support our fight for the rights of injured people;
- To provide state of the art services and activities to attract and support claimant personal injury lawyers and others;
- To increase and improve public knowledge of APIL's kite mark and public information service;
- To manage our business and people openly, responsively and efficiently to maintain a successful 'not for profit' membership organisation;

- To ensure APIL's long term future by understanding and maximising opportunities and responding to change.

It was an exciting time for us when we moved offices just before Christmas 2010 and once again, everyone worked together for the benefit of APIL and, as always, there was great team spirit.

This is my last report and I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the wonderful individuals in Nottingham who make up the APIL team of staff. Each one of them shows great commitment and passion for their work and the aims and objectives of our association.

Thank you for the support and guidance provided to me over the years. I will miss you.

A huge thank-you too, to all those APIL members who actively

support our work. As I have always said, you are the lifeblood of our association and your passion and dedication is there for all to see. It has been an honour and a privilege to work with you.

Denise Kitchener
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Fighting for the rights of injured people – Parliamentary campaigns

The general election made 2010 a particularly challenging year on the lobbying front and the fact that several projects stalled, when they would have brought great benefit to injured people was a great frustration. This was particularly true of the previous Government's apparent acceptance of the need to introduce an Employers Liability Insurance Bureau (ELIB).

During the year:

- Contact was made with every new MP elected
- APIL arranged a successful parliamentary event with attendance from senior MPs and peers
- Evidence was provided to a number of parliamentary select committees
- MPs and peers have continued to approach APIL for briefings before debates and on specific issues.

Lord Young of Graffham's review into health and safety and the compensation system, Common Sense

Common Safety, was a major issue both before and after its publication in October. APIL had a private meeting with Lord Young and provided evidence to his review, as well as briefings on the subject when the House of Lords debated the report.

APIL responded to the previous Government's consultations on an employers' liability insurance bureau (ELIB) and an employers' liability tracing office (ELTO). The association continued to campaign hard for an ELIB, directly lobbying the new Minister, Lord Freud, at the Department for Work and Pensions, and providing briefings to interested MPs.

The House of Commons was the venue for APIL's 2010 parliamentary event in November. Senior MPs, peers and civil servants joined APIL to debate Lord Young's report.

APIL contributed to the passing of the Third Parties (Rights against Insurers) Bill by providing both written and oral evidence to the Special Public Bill Committee. The Bill received Royal Assent but has yet to be enacted as it became part of the new Government's review of new legislation.

APIL continued to raise concerns about third party capture, and every single UK parliamentarian has been contacted about the issue.

The association continued to be a port of call for parliamentary select committees, providing evidence to the justice, transport and health select committees.

Safeguarding the rights of injured people – law reform

England and Wales

APIL has had another busy year responding to changes in the legal landscape. We have responded to 29 consultation papers across the jurisdictions. In addition to this there have been major reviews in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. As well as this work we also remain dedicated to our own projects such as the multi-track code, run jointly with FOIL and liability insurers.

In addition to APIL's parliamentary campaigns identified above, APIL has also worked on the following:

- **Referral fees consultations issued by Legal Services Consumer Panel (LSCP) and Legal Services Board.**
Following consultation with members we submitted evidence to the LSCP showing the diversity of referral arrangements and raising our concerns about the need for freedom of choice.
- **Court closures consultation** issued by the Ministry of Justice in which we asked for

reassurance that the courts which are to remain, would be able to cope with the proposed closures without increasing delays. We also called for a guarantee to be added to the Civil Courts Charter specifying that no one should have to wait more than 20 working days from issue of preliminary application to the date their case is heard.

- **Funding**
This year has seen an even greater emphasis on the cost and funding of personal injury litigation. There was the publication of Lord Justice Jackson's final report on civil costs in January; the publication of the two Ministry of Justice consultations followed in November on civil litigation funding and on the reform of Legal Aid, along with two House of Commons Select Committee Inquiries from the Justice Committee and Health Committee.

APIL has spent the year developing policy and discussing possible alternatives to Jackson with members. We published our response to Jackson in August 2010 and will have formulated our response to the latest consultations in conjunction with our executive committee by the end of April 2011. APIL will continue to raise at every opportunity the need to maintain individual human rights through social responsibility whilst acknowledging the need for costs to be streamlined and systems to be efficient, particularly in the current economic climate. Our overriding aim will continue to be, to safeguard the rights of injured people, ensure access to justice and the provision of an accessible, affordable civil justice system.

- **Clinical negligence**
Since the announcement by APIL's President at our 2010 annual conference, where he said:

“the cost of claims against the NHS continues to increase and we must recognise that simply cannot continue... the cost of claims to the NHS is a significant political issue that we ignore at our peril.”

APIL embarked on consultation with its members about possible improvements to the process for dealing with clinical negligence claims and finalised a paper of proposed areas for reform. The paper was then presented to the Ministry of Justice. In that document we made suggestions for a streamlined process to promote quick and fair resolution for straightforward clinical negligence cases, where liability is admitted and injuries have resolved within a relatively short period of time, while still ensuring that the individual has access to independent legal advice from a specialist lawyer. On success fees APIL suggests that the answer is not to abolish them but to regulate (as has been done successfully in other areas of personal injury, most notably the new claims process for road traffic cases).



Protocol review

The review of the pre-action protocols started last year but extensive representation was made to the disease and illness, clinical disputes and personal

injury protocols review groups. The collaborative and consensual approach to the work undertaken this year on the clinical disputes protocol has led us to engage with the NHSLA over the last six months. This has culminated in open dialogue between APIL and the NHSLA. There is a willingness on both sides to make improvements where possible. The NHSLA has expressed an interest in the multi-track code the joint APIL/FOIL /insurers initiative which was started in 2008.

Following extensive lobbying by the defendant representatives, both as part of the protocol review group and a separate review conducted by the Ministry of Justice. APIL has, for the time being, ensured that there is no separate protocol for mesothelioma claims.

Discount rate

APIL wrote to the Lord Chancellor in August 2010 requesting that he review the discount rate. After no response was received, APIL indicated that it was prepared to judicially review the Lord Chancellor's failure to review the rate which is currently set at 2.5 per cent. The subsequent agreement by the Lord Chancellor to conduct a review has been welcomed by APIL.

- Hodge Jones & Allen Solicitors, and Philip Havers QC act on behalf of APIL, in a pro bono capacity, as do the experts Rowland Hogg and Chris Daykin;
- The Lord Chancellor has not yet indicated when he expects to announce his decision. APIL is pressing for this information;
- The announcement has now also triggered a similar, independent, review of the Scottish and Northern Ireland discount rates.

APIL in the spotlight

APIL raised its broadcast media profile dramatically when the association featured in 15 national television and radio reports during the year. President Muiris Lyons took part in six television interviews, many of which related to Lord Young of Graffham's review of health and safety, a top APIL campaign priority.

During the course of the year the association issued around 40 press releases, seven statements and 23 letters to the press.

Highlights:

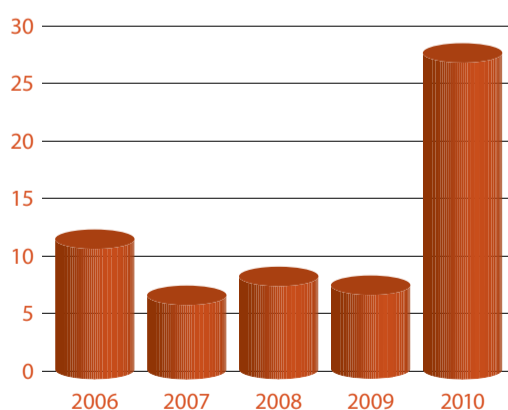
- **National television:** After the issue of a hard-hitting press release criticising the rumoured content of Lord Young's review, Muiris was invited to provide reaction to the Lord Young review live on BBC News 24 in early October. Clips from this interview were used almost hourly throughout the day and a short version was then used on the



main news bulletins on BBC1. Similar interviews took place live on separate occasions on Sky News, Channel 4 News and ITV1's Daybreak. Earlier in the year the so-called "compensation culture" was debated on The Alan Titchmarsh Show.

- **National radio:** Muiris took part in a head-to-head debate with Lord Young on The World at One on BBC Radio 4. He was also interviewed as part of a feature on BBC Radio 4's Law in Action about Lord Justice Jackson's review of civil litigation costs. APIL was also involved in stories broadcast on BBC Radio 5 Live, twice on the Today programme on BBC Radio 4 and The Jeremy Vine Show on BBC Radio 2. APIL also featured in 12 regional BBC radio and commercial radio programmes.

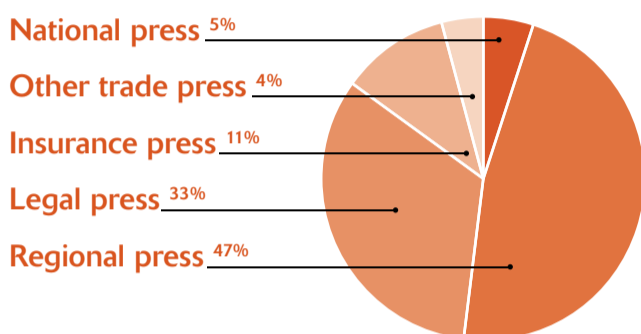
APIL broadcast interviews



- **National press:** Nearly 8.5 million readers were reached by APIL in national press stories. Highlights included comments in The Daily Mirror about bereavement damages; The Guardian and Metro about Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations; The Daily Telegraph about legal aid for inquests, and the Daily Express in Scotland about injuries caused by hairdressers.

- **Trade journals:** APIL's profile remained high in trade press articles, where the association's views on key issues were widely reported.
- **Online:** Millions of internet readers were reached by APIL through national news websites such as timesonline.co.uk, skynews.com, bbc.co.uk. Online trade journals also frequently covered APIL press releases and statements.
- **Regional press:** APIL's SafetyWatch campaign on injuries caused by hairdressers reached a regional circulation of approximately 1.5 million readers; the campaign about county court closures reached a circulation of more than one million.

APIL press stories



Working with other organisations

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA)

APIL has dealt with a number of concerns relating to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) and its scheme this year:

- Reversionary trusts;
- Retaining infant awards in trust;
- Payments being made directly to the applicant;
- Discouragement of the use of legal representatives;
- Medical reports – proposals to force applicants to pay for their own medical reports.

A meeting with the CICA to discuss these concerns coincided with an announcement by the Secretary of State for Justice to review the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme in general. The language used in the proposal for a review reiterates that the priority is to create efficiencies, not to serve injured people. To pre-empt any outcome of that review, APIL wrote to the Minister of State for Justice emphasising its concerns, and issued a press release to ensure that those concerns were also aired more widely.

Motor Insurer's Bureau (MIB)

APIL's working group submitted its own version of the MIB Uninsured Drivers Agreement to the Department for Transport and is keeping in touch with officials there, should there be any developments.

Association of District Judges (ADJ)

APIL's bi-annual meetings with the ADJ have been particularly useful this year – discussion of the many changes introduced by the claims process have been invaluable to all concerned.

Discussions, dialogue and debate has continued with many other organisations including MASS, FOIL, PIBA, trade unions, the British Safety Council and charitable groups.

Campaigning on behalf of injured people: Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales

Scotland

Scottish Parliament

Bill Butler MSP introduced his Damages (Scotland) Bill into the Scottish Parliament in June. The Bill, which seeks to bring forward recommendations relating to damages for wrongful death as proposed by the Scottish Law Commission, cleared stage 1 in the Scottish parliamentary process.

APIL supported Bill Butler's Bill, providing written and oral evidence to the Justice Committee of the Scottish Parliament. The association also continued to lobby the Government to introduce Law Commission recommendations on prescription and limitation, and psychiatric harm.



Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Assembly

APIL continued its policy of meeting members of the Northern Ireland Assembly. Particularly helpful meetings were held with members of the Public Accounts Committee at which levels of damages and legal costs in the jurisdiction were discussed.

APIL also supplied evidence to the Justice Committee for its examination of the Sunbeds Bill.

Legal reform

The Northern Ireland Courts Service issued a consultation about increasing the jurisdictional limit of the county courts for civil litigation in Northern Ireland. APIL responded, requesting that any increase to be limited to £25,000, arguing that this was above inflation and would be sufficient for some years to come. APIL also called for a greater degree of specialisation of judges and for clinical negligence cases to be excluded from the county court altogether.

Wales

Welsh Assembly

The Welsh Assembly Government launched a consultation on the new NHS redress proposals to which APIL responded. Meetings were also held with senior Assembly Members to raise awareness of concerns related to the proposed measures. The regulations to bring the measures into existence will be laid before the Assembly in the new year.

Legal reform

The Welsh Assembly Government consulted, for the second time in September, on draft National Health Service (concerns, complaints and redress arrangements) for Wales regulations. APIL said that it is against the introduction of a new National Health Service redress system as currently proposed as we still believe it will make the Welsh second class citizens to their English counterparts. We also stated that any investigation into potential negligence must be independent from the body under scrutiny.

APIL also responded to the Welsh Assembly Government consultation paper on the draft Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 (Wales) Regulations 2011. We agreed that the Welsh Assembly Government should introduce further controls in this area in order to prevent the use of sunbeds in Wales.

APIL's 20th anniversary year

APIL began its 20th anniversary year in April with its annual two day residential conference at the Celtic Manor Resort, Newport, Wales, together with its biggest ever charity golf day, sponsored by Compass Costs. The conference attracted over 520 delegates, exhibitors, sponsors and speakers. A number of awards were presented, in particular to those members who had supported APIL continuously for the past 20 years.



Annual conference: founding members

A local celebration

In July, APIL members, staff and business suppliers were invited to a 20th anniversary celebration at the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham.

Charity golf day

APIL's biggest ever charity golf day at the Celtic Manor Resort, Newport, Wales, was attended by 160 players. They enjoyed a round of golf on the Roman Road course and the new Twenty Ten Ryder Cup course before the professionals got to use it! Funds raised went to the charity Headway.



Compass Costs – golf sponsors and winners

PI Focus special issue

A 20th Anniversary special issue of PI Focus, APIL's ten issue magazine, was the publication's highlight this May, featuring interviews with the founding members, past presidents and others who played a part in APIL's early days, photos from the archives and features looking at developments in the law over the past 20 years.

20th anniversary online archive

An archive of photographs from APIL's 20th anniversary gala dinner, the annual conference, charity golf day, business and clinical negligence conferences, the original proposal deed and formation documents for APIL were added to the APIL website this year.

Public information campaign

External agency McCann Erikson was selected, following a full presentation to APIL's executive committee in 2010, to work on our public information activities. Its brief was to develop a campaign which:

- Informs the public of their rights when injured through negligence;
- Reminds the public of their own responsibilities;
- Alerts them to the approaches which may be made by insurers and claims management companies;
- Highlights the importance of independent, regulated advice;
- Directs the public to accredited, specialist lawyers.

McCann Erikson has also begun linking up with APIL's staff, accredited members and firms, with the aim of building a trusted quality kite-mark.



Events and networking

Education, training, conferences

Another specialist event

APIL's first residential catastrophic injuries conference in July treated delegates and exhibitors to sessions by eminent experts and practitioners, giving an insight into brain and spinal cord injury cases.

Brighton plays host

The Grand Hotel, Brighton hosted APIL's final residential conference of the year. Over 200 Clinical negligence practitioners listened to experts detailing the various symptoms and problems that can occur in the digestive system. Thank you to APIL members Roger Wicks and Christopher Limb who developed the comprehensive programme.

2010 training

The 2010 programme was extensive and varied and included additional courses scheduled to satisfy membership demand, the Accident Line contract to provide a series of courses in the first part of the year; new delegates registering for the APIL certificate this year and the ever popular PI Updates running in thirteen locations nationwide.

In-house training

In all, 39 in-house courses were delivered this year.

Webinars

APIL has hosted seven webinars from the APIL office this year. The changed location was designed to improve the quality of images transmitted and to encourage participant feedback during and after the broadcast. An APIL backdrop has also provided a professional look for the broadcasts. Subjects, including the Jackson review, Part 36 offers, the RTA claims process, procedure, damages and costs and funding were covered by these sessions and over 2,760 individuals logged on to join in.

Quality control

APIL continued with its rigorous monitoring activities in the following key areas:

- Assessment of corporate accredited firms and compliance with criteria;
- Attendance at training courses delivered by other providers;
- Distance learning;
- Course materials;
- In-house training.

At its annual meeting at the beginning of November, APIL's independent academic quality council, chaired by the College of Law, commended the outstanding quality of APIL's training courses and the meticulous monitoring work that has been maintained throughout the year.

Information technology

APIL website redesign

Social media consultancy, SIFT, was appointed to undertake a strategic review of APIL's website and to advise on improvements to our membership forums, in conjunction with APIL staff.



The new website was launched at the end of September with an entirely new look. The content of the site now provides a direct route into the site for expert witnesses, the public and practitioners. The site should also increase revenues, and access to publications from the homepage should enable more sales of the APIL/Jordan Guides and other literature.

Forums

After several intensive mentoring sessions with some of the APIL staff, the membership online discussion forums were re-launched on 21 October 2010.

Prior to the re-launch, forum visitors and other members were surveyed to find out what they wanted from their online community, the main forum was divided into several subject specific areas, the online look of the forums was simplified and modernised, and the mentoring sessions gave staff the tools and confidence to interact productively and positively with the membership online.

Online statistics

Over 80,000 lawyer searches have been made on the site this year. The online expert database remained a popular facility, with over 2,500 searches being completed every month. Overall visits to the APIL website rose by seven per cent, with areas on the members' discussion forums rising by an astonishing 27 per cent.

Online renewals

For the first time this year, members have been able to renew their membership online. This has helped to reduce administration time and sped up the renewal process.

Networking

Membership, regional and special interest groups

A total of 59 regional, special interest and membership group meetings were held this year. In addition, four regional forums were held in Exeter, Cambridge, Leeds and Manchester, offering updates on procedure, damages, and costs and funding to 203 members.

Books and other publications

Membership directory

The 2010/2011 directory was published in October and circulated to all members, containing details of all APIL members as at September 2010 and contact details for key organisations, our executive committee members and group co-ordinators and secretaries.

Expert and rehabilitation services directory

The third edition of APIL's expert directory was published in May. Around 800 experts are included, including enhanced listings for particular areas of expertise.

APIL Guides

Two new APIL guides have been published for APIL by Jordan Publishing this year. They are:

- APIL Guide to Tripping and Slipping Cases by Charles Foster and Ben Bradley and
- APIL Guide to Catastrophic Injuries, by Grahame Aldous QC, Peter Andrews QC, Stuart McKechnie and Terry Lee. A book launch for the Catastrophic Injuries guide was held at the APIL annual conference.

In addition, APIL's Personal Injury loose-leaf has continued to hold its own in sales and renewals. Similarly, the quarterly Journal of Personal Injury Law (JPIL) published for APIL by Sweet and Maxwell, has continued to be one of that publisher's best sellers.



PI Focus

As well as the 20th Anniversary special issue of the association's membership regular publication a further nine issues, including a technology and social media themed issue, have been published on schedule this year.

Statistics

Attendance at executive committee meetings
(maximum of seven)
January – December 2010

Muiris Lyons, President a Stewarts Law, London	7
David Bott, Vice President b Bott & Co, Wilmslow	5
Stephen Lawson, Secretary c Forshaws Davies Ridgway, Frodsham	7
Christopher Limb, Treasurer d 18, St John Street Chambers, Manchester	6
John McQuater, Immediate Past President e Atherton Godfrey, Doncaster	7
Amanda Stevens, f Irwin Mitchell, London	2
Cenric Clement-Evans Hugh James, Merthyr Tydfil	5
Gordon Dalyell g Digby Brown, Edinburgh	4
Stephen Gray Gray Magee, Belfast	2
Jane Horton g Irwin Mitchell, Leeds	5
Michael Imperato Russell Jones Walker, Cardiff	7
Stuart Kightley g Osbornes, London	7

Victoria Mortimer-Harvey Pattinson Brewer, London	6
Matthew Stockwell g India Buildings Chambers, Liverpool	6
Neil Sugarman GLP Solicitors, Bury	6
Nigel Tomkins Tomkins Consultancy, Nottingham	6
Karl Tonks Fentons, Manchester	6
Mark Turnbull Thompsons, Liverpool	6
Fred Tyler h Balfour Manson, Edinburgh	1
Jonathan Wheeler Bolt Burdon Kemp, London	7

a Elected as president at AGM: 22 April 2010

b Elected as vice president at AGM: 22 April 2010

c Re-elected as secretary at AGM: 22 April 2010

d Re-elected as treasurer at AGM: 22 April 2010

e Post as president ended at AGM: 22 April 2010

f Post as immediate past president ended at AGM:
22 April 2010

g Elected at AGM: 22 April 2010

h Did not stand for re-election at AGM

Membership

There were 650 new members recruited in 2010 and a total of 4,088 members renewed their memberships during the year, maintaining the attrition rate at around 12 per cent.

As at 31 December 2010

Practitioners*	4,192
Non practising members*	39
Honorary life members	13
Barristers*	162
Paralegals	193
Students	32
Academics (including web members)	18
Overseas	92
Total	4,741

*included within practitioner members on page 33

Accreditation

Figures as at 31 December 2010:

Litigators	317
Senior litigators	753
Fellows	180
Senior fellows	12
Total	1,262

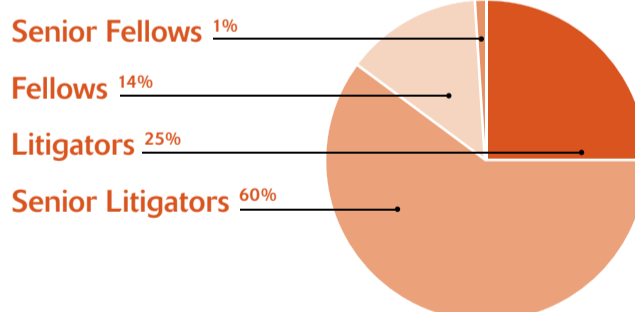
249 corporate accredited firms

60 in-house accredited firms

37 externally accredited training providers

A total of 94 new individuals were accredited and several upgraded their accredited status.

APIL Accreditation



“These results continue to demonstrate that APIL is a well-managed organisation.”

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In 2010, the fiscal climate has continued to exert great pressures both on our members and our own finances, placing ever greater demands on the needs of the APIL staff team to manage the Association's monies prudently.

In keeping with our normal practices, the Association set a modest surplus target in its annual budget for 2010 of some £16,000.

The final position for 2010 shows a surplus of £2,935.

The income generated by our operational activities, totalled over £2.7 million which is an increase of over 12.5% on the previous year. The increase was due to additional membership subscriptions and income generated from our training and conference programme.

Since 2008, the return on our investments has continued to decline. The extremely low interest rates have continued to affect our return. However, in 2010 the figures for interest improved slightly, with a return on the year of some £17,156 compared to £3,249 in 2009. However, as a result of the timing that certain interest receipts were credited to the bank accounts, part of the interest included in 2010 relates to interest accrued pre 31 December 2009. This was not accrued in the previous years' financial statements as the Executive Committee considered the amount was not material. The auditors concurred with this assessment.

Even though our income has increased, we have continued to exercise extremely tight control over all areas of expenditure. This is reflected by the fact that our operational expenditure is some £144,450 under the budget set for

2010. One of the major elements of expenditure (employee costs), shows a reduction this year against 2009, down from £903,098 to £889,679. Although our staff numbers have remained stable, this is particularly pleasing due to the fact that we have had to cover three separate instances of maternity cover, which of course could not be budgeted for.

At the beginning of 2010, consideration turned to the forthcoming expiry of our two office leases at Castle Quay. Falling property prices in the Nottingham area coupled with a sound financial business case led us to consider using some of APIL's reserves for the purpose of purchasing our own offices. With the full approval of the Executive Committee a property was sourced and subsequently bought for £575,000 part funded by APIL and part funded with a ten year mortgage, with Lloyds TSB. Although within

our accounts in accordance with relevant companies' legislation an allowance is made for depreciation of the property at two per cent a year, members should be aware that the Executive Committee anticipates that the property will appreciate in value. As a consequence the Executive Committee will keep under review the accounting policy adopted in relation to the property and may choose to adopt a revaluation policy if this is considered to better reflect the true underlying value of the asset in the balance sheet. Given that the property was acquired in November 2010 the Executive Committee did not consider it necessary to change the policy from historic cost for the December 2010 year end.

The second commitment announced at last year's AGM, was the commissioning of a public information campaign, commencing in September 2010, using a respected marketing agency (McCann Erickson), the work has started and will continue through to September 2011. This expenditure totalling £200,000 was approved by APIL's Executive Committee in September 2010, and £85,000 has been incurred in the year to December 2010.

Although having no impact on APIL's reserves, the commitment

of the above expenditure has had a significant impact on our cash position at the year end. In 2009, APIL's cash at bank figure stood at £1,127,205 which reduced to £400,283 at the current year end. Members should be aware however, that following the closure of our accounts at year end, £300,000 was credited to APIL's account by our bankers (Lloyds TSB), in respect of a mortgage on the new offices. In addition, our overall cash position will be improved further at the end of the first quarter of 2011, when APIL will also receive the refund of the VAT paid (£100,625), on the property purchase.

APIL has had an ongoing, special relationship with the American Association of Justice (formerly AAJ) over the last 20 years, a relationship which began with them providing seed corn funding of \$10,000 for APIL back in 1990.

In our 20th anniversary, the Executive Committee was reminded by APIL's founder members of the funding provided and their support for its return, as a goodwill gesture. This was particularly pertinent at a time when the AAJ was beset with its own financial difficulties, brought about in part, by extensive lobbying against a fiercely anti-victim government in the US.

These financial results continue to demonstrate that APIL is a well managed organisation with a committed team of staff, officers and members of an executive committee who continue to work closely together ensuring that the funds of our not for profit organisation are managed effectively and efficiently.

I conclude by thanking the entire staff team for its dedication, support and hard work in continuing to ensure APIL remains a strong, sound and financially viable organisation.

Christopher Limb
TREASURER

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

A company limited by guarantee

Report of the Executive Committee

Year ended 31 December 2010

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The Executive Committee present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2010.

This report also forms the report of the directors, as required under s.415 of the Companies Act 2006.

Activity

The principal activities of the company are to campaign for improvements in personal injury law on behalf of injured people; to promote, encourage and develop expertise in the practice of personal injury law by education

and the exchange of information and knowledge.

Review of developments and future prospects

In 2010, APIL developments included:

- The funding of a public information campaign that began in the autumn and extends late into 2011;
- The successful search and subsequent purchase of a purpose built office block as a new registered office;
- The development and holding of a new catastrophic injuries conference;
- A twentieth anniversary conference that generated a total income of £378k;
- A 7.5% increase in the numbers of members registered for webinars, even though the numbers of webinars held was less than in the previous year;
- The enhancement of our expert database service;
- A strategic review of APIL's website and forums, culminating in a successful re-design and re-launch.

In 2011, new activity will include:

- Increasing the number of firms joining our accreditation scheme in 2011, by some 40%;
- Increased profile and awareness of the APIL kitemark, from the additional programme of work run by external agency, McCann Erickson;
- Development of APIL's annual research programme;
- Improved membership numbers;
- Broadening of APIL's expert database to provide wider range of information and breadth of experts.

We will see an immediate return on our property purchase, with savings against the former lease costs of around £40k in the first year.

We have as usual set ourselves a prudent budget for 2011, in the expectation that the financial pressures on our members will continue to be extremely tight, particularly following the recent increase in VAT.

Results

Details of the results for the year are set out in the income and expenditure account on pages 30-31.

Charitable gifts

APIL made one charitable donation during the financial year, namely, £1,500 to Headway, from funds raised directly at the two APIL charity golf days (2009; £1,000 donated to the Child's Brain Injury Trust).

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these

financial statements the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Executive Committee

J McQuater*

M Lyons*

C Limb*

S Lawson*

S Kightley

N Tomkins

M Imperato

M Stockwell

N Sugarman

K Tonks

M Turnbull

F Tyler

C Clement-Evans

S Gray

J Wheeler

D Bott*

V Mortimer-Harvey

*are also directors of the company

D.Bott was appointed director on 22 April 2010. J McQuater resigned as director on 23 April 2010.

Financial risk management

The company's objective regarding financial risk management is to keep exposure of price risk, credit risk, liquidity risk and cash flow risk to a minimum. The company makes sales on normal credit terms and manages the related risks through its credit control procedures. In the opinion of the Executive Committee the exposure of such risks has been assessed and at present deemed to be low and at an acceptable level for the company to continue to operate.

Provision of information to auditors

So far as each of the members of the Executive Committee are aware at the time the report is approved:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware, and
- the members of the Executive Committee have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Basis of preparation

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Executive Committee and signed on the behalf of the Executive Committee and the directors on 8 March 2011.

S Lawson Secretary and director

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

A company limited by guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

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We have audited the financial statements of Association of Personal Injury Lawyers for the year ended 31 December 2010

which comprise the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to smaller entities).

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body,

in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditor

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies

we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2010 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to smaller entities; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the report of the Executive Committee for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements and the directors' report in accordance with the small companies regime.

G Singleton
Senior statutory auditor

PKF

for and on behalf of PKF (UK) LLP,
Statutory auditors
Nottingham, UK
15 March 2011

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

A company limited by guarantee
Income and expenditure account /
Balance sheet
year ended 31 december 2010

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Income and expenditure account

	Note	2010 £	2009 £
Income			
Membership subscriptions	2	944,425	917,090
Other income		1,771,047	1,487,375
		2,715,472	2,404,465
Expenditure			
Administration expenses		(2,635,294)	(2,363,390)
Public information campaign – special project		(85,802)	–
		(5,624)	41,075
Deficit of income over expenditure			
Interest receivable	4	17,156	3,249
Surplus of income over expenditure before tax	5	11,532	44,324
Taxation	6	(8,597)	(12,714)
Surplus after tax		2,935	31,610
Balance brought forward		433,133	401,523
Balance carried forward		436,068	433,133

All activities derive from continuing operations. There are no recognised gains or losses for the current financial year or previous year other than as stated in the income and expenditure account.

The notes on pages 32 - 37 form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet

	Note	2010 £	2009 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	7	574,772	7,411
Current assets			
Debtors	8	112,110	2,374
Prepayments and accrued income		71,853	85,571
Cash at bank and in hand		400,283	1,127,205
		584,246	1,215,150
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(722,950)	(789,428)
Net current (liabilities)/assets		(138,704)	425,722
Total assets less current liabilities		436,068	433,133
Net assets		436,068	433,133
Reserves			
Income and expenditure account		436,068	433,133

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Officers on 8 March 2011.

Signed on behalf of the Executive Committee

C Limb
Treasurer and
Director

The notes on pages 32 - 37 form part of these financial statements.

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Financial Statements

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

A company limited by guarantee
Notes to the accounts
Year ended 31 December 2010

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1. Accounting policies

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). The particular accounting policies adopted are described below. The profit and loss account has been replaced by an income and expenditure account as the Executive Committee considers that this statement is more appropriate given the nature of the company's activities.

Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

Membership subscriptions to the association cover a period of twelve months to 31 March each year. Subscriptions received during the year have been credited to the income and expenditure account, subject to the deferral of three months of each subscription, representing that portion attributable from 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2011.

Other income represents income from conferences, training events and publishing, and is recognised when the contractual obligations of the service for which the receipt relates have been delivered.

Interest receivable

Interest receivable is credited to the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets is calculated to write off their cost over the period of their estimated useful economic lives at the following rate:

Computer equipment and fixtures and fittings
20% per annum on cost

Freehold Property
2% per annum on cost

Pension scheme

The company contributes to the personal pension schemes of eligible employees. Costs are charged to the profit and loss account as they are incurred.

Leases

Operating lease rentals are charged against income in equal amounts over the lease term.

Deferred tax

Full provision is made for material deferred tax assets and liabilities arising from all timing differences between the recognition of gains and losses in the financial statements and recognition in the tax computation.

A net deferred tax asset is recognised only if it can be regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

Deferred assets and liabilities are calculated at the tax rates expected to be effective at the time the timing differences are expected to reverse.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

2. Membership subscriptions

Practitioner members
Student members
Paralegal members
Academic members
Overseas members
Web members
Honorary members

	2010 No.	2009 No.	2010 £	2009 £
Practitioner members	4,393	4,313	866,987	826,428
Student members	32	36	1,650	1,695
Paralegal members	193	192	20,474	19,875
Academic members	17	15	1,445	1,200
Overseas members	92	88	8,740	7,882
Web members	1	1	70	130
Honorary members	13	12	-	-
	4,741	4,657	899,366	857,210
Add: Deferred income brought forward			217,504	221,063
Less: Deferred income carried forward (see note 1)			(226,986)	(217,504)
			889,884	860,769
Corporate accreditation income			58,591	54,314
Add: Deferred income brought forward			24,360	26,367
Less: Deferred income carried forward			(28,610)	(24,360)
			54,341	56,321
			944,225	917,090

3. Committee and employees

	2010	2009
	£	£

Membership of the executive committee is voluntary.
No remuneration for Executive Committee duties has been paid in the year.

Employee costs during the year

Wages and salaries	774,515	793,659
Social security costs	68,540	74,449
Pension costs	46,624	34,990
	889,679	903,098

Average number of persons employed

	No.	No.
Administration	28	30

4. Interest receivable

	2010	2009
	£	£
Bank deposit interest	17,156	3,249

5. Surplus of income over expenditure before tax

	2010	2009
	£	£

The result for the year is after charging:

Depreciation	16,198	7,786
Auditors' remuneration	5,250	5,100
Rentals under operating leases - land and buildings	72,157	63,825
- other	2,412	2,412
Loss on disposal of fixed asset	3,283	1

6. Taxation on results for the year

	2010	2009
	£	£

United Kingdom corporation tax charge at an effective rate of 21%
(2009: 21%) based on taxable surplus for the year

	8,597	12,714
	8,597	12,714

	2010	2009
	£	£

Factors affecting tax charge for the year

Surplus of income over expenditure before tax	11,532	44,324
-----------------------------------------------	---------------	--------

Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by the effective rate of corporation tax in the UK of 21% (2009: 21%)	2,422	9,308
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------	-------

Effects of:

- Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	5,621	3,815
- Capital allowances in excess of depreciation	(10,551)	(409)
- Capital items expensed	11,105	-
Current tax charge for the period	8,597	12,714

7. Fixed assets

	Freehold Property	Computer Equipment, Fixtures and Fittings	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 January 2010	-	151,198	151,198
Additions during the year	577,135	9,706	586,841
Disposals	-	(75,318)	(75,318)
At 31 December 2010	577,135	85,586	662,721

Accumulated depreciation

At 1 January 2010	-	143,787	143,787
Charge for the year	11,543	4,654	16,197
On disposals	-	(72,035)	(72,035)
At 31 December 2010	11,543	76,406	89,949

Net book amount

At 31 December 2010	565,592	9,180	574,772
At 31 December 2009	-	7,411	7,411

8. Debtors

	2010	2009
	£	£
Trade debtors	1,321	2,374
Trade debtors – VAT Repayable	10,164	–
Trade debtors – VAT Repayable on property acquisition	100,625	–
	112,110	2,374

9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2010	2009
	£	£
Trade creditors	55,270	45,027
Corporation tax	8,597	12,714
Social security and other taxes	–	22,613
Deferred income – subscriptions	226,986	217,504
Deferred income – corporate accreditation	28,610	24,360
Deferred income – courses	27,597	41,155
Deferred income – other	262,815	372,093
Accruals	113,075	53,962
	722,950	789,428

10. Other commitments

	Other 2010	Land and buildings 2010	Other 2009	Land and buildings 2009
	£	£	£	£
At 31 December 2010, the company had annual commitments under operating leases as follows:				
Leases which expire:				
Between 1 and 5 years	2,412	–	2,412	63,825

11. Share capital

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have share capital. Every member of the Association undertakes to contribute such amount as maybe required (not exceeding £1) to the assets of the Association if it should be wound up.

12. Post balance sheet events

On 17 January 2011 a mortgage of £300k was drawn down, which is secured against the property acquired during the year.

13. Ultimate controlling party

The company is limited by guarantee and has no shareholders. Under the constitution the Executive Committee is the ultimate controlling party.

Detailed income and expenditure account

	2010	2010	2009	2009
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Membership (including other related income)		1,069,223		1,025,694
Conference, SIGS and regional meetings		614,258		389,180
Training events		910,390		888,891
Publishing		121,601		100,700
		2,715,472		2,404,465
Direct expenditure				
Membership (including other related expenditure)	45,326		46,529	
Conference, SIGS and regional meetings	493,932		327,414	
Training events	580,480		599,201	
Legal affairs	12,196		7,668	
Publishing and communications	96,110		81,170	
		(1,228,044)		(1,061,982)
Salaries and overhead expenditure				
Staff costs (including training and recruitment)	903,776		907,683	
Property costs	161,356		122,107	
APIL stationery, postage and other costs	253,467		204,170	
Staff travel	17,063		10,798	
IT costs	6,998		5,560	
Executive Committee	48,392		43,304	
Depreciation	16,198		7,786	
		(1,407,250)		(1,301,408)
Public Information Campaign – Special Project		(85,802)		–
Operating surplus / (deficit)		(5,624)		41,075
Interest receivable		17,156		3,249
Surplus of income over expenditure		11,532		44,324

APIL officers and executive committee members 2010

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Muiris Lyons,
President
(vice president until
22.04.2010)
Stewarts Law, London



Christopher Limb,
Treasurer
18, St John Street
Chambers,
Manchester



**Cenric
Clement-Evans**
Hugh James,
Merthyr Tydfil



David Bott,
Vice President
Bott & Co, Wilmslow



John McQuater,
Immediate
Past President
(President until
22.04.2010)



Gordon Dalyell
(from 22.04.2010)
Digby Brown,
Edinburgh



Stephen Lawson,
Secretary
Forshaws Davies
Ridgway, Frodsham



Amanda Stevens,
(Immediate past
president until
22.04.2010)
Irwin Mitchell, London



Stephen Gray
Gray Magee, Belfast



Jane Horton
(from 22.04.2010)
Irwin Mitchell, Leeds



Karl Tonks
Fentons, Manchester



Mark Turnbull
Thompsons, Liverpool



Michael Imperato
Russell Jones Walker,
Cardiff



**Victoria
Mortimer-Harvey**
Pattinson Brewer,
London



Fred Tyler
(Until 22.04.2010)
Balfour Manson,
Edinburgh



Stuart Kightley
Osbornes, London



Matthew Stockwell
India Buildings
Chambers, Liverpool



Jonathan Wheeler
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