

APIL
11 Castle Quay
Nottingham
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February 28, 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) to respond to the HSE consultation document regarding the protocol for liaison for work-related deaths.

The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) was formed in 1990 and represents more than 5,250 solicitors, barristers, legal executives and academics whose interest in personal injury work is predominantly on behalf of injured claimants. The aims of the association are:

- To promote full and prompt compensation for all types of personal injury;
- To improve access to our legal system by all means including education, the exchange of information and the enhancement of law reform;
- To alert the public to dangers in society such as harmful products and dangerous drugs;
- To provide a communication network exchanging views formally and informally.

APIL welcomes the opportunity to comment on the joint HSE / CPS / ACPO protocol for liaison. APIL supports the protocol, but considers that two amendments should be made.

Firstly, in the introduction to the protocol (page 5) a reference is made to keeping bereaved families and witnesses suitably informed. APIL is concerned that this issue is not covered in the protocol itself. We consider that this issue has an important place in the protocol and should be included.

Secondly, at paragraph 6.1 of the protocol, which deals with the decision to prosecute, there is no reference to a specific target time in which to make a decision whether or not to prosecute. APIL considers that a target of six months would be a suitable target.

I hope that you find the above comments useful, and if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Richard Fairholme
Research Administrator