



Building a Brighter Future
for Injured People

Annual report & accounts 2022



The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers Objectives



Building a Brighter Future
for Injured People

-  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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It has been an honour to be elected the President of APIL, particularly for the second time.



John McQuater
President

Despite more than a decade having elapsed since I was last President, many of the challenges facing members of the organisation are very much the same. The needs of all our clients have not changed; yet legal and procedural changes, in the context of wider world events, have made practice today very different to how it was all those years ago.

Back in 2009, when I last gave the President's report, we were still in the era of recoverable additional liabilities (which, it is important to remember, had been introduced less than a decade before that, in order to justify the withdrawal of legal aid – a system which, in hindsight, clearly worked very well). There were no low-value protocols for personal injury claims, let alone an online system for small claims, and the first Jackson Report was still on the horizon.

The intervening years have seen many changes to which our members have readily adapted, to ensure that we continue going about the important business of looking after our clients. In addition, legal practice over the last three years was inevitably affected by the pandemic. Members have continued to adapt ways of working that were generated during that time; even though, in many ways, life has now returned to normal.

All that matters, because injured people still need a voice; still need representation; still need redress.

Lawyers are never popular when holding the powerful and the wealthy to account, as many of our colleagues in other areas of law know only too well. But that role is vital to the rule of law, a cornerstone of our values here and in the wider, democratic, world.

For all their support and help, I would like to thank my fellow officers, all the members of the EC (and it has been so good to have lay members around the table for the first time), and of course the APIL staff.

I am delighted that Jon Scarsbrook has been elected as APIL president and wish him, along with the new team of officers and EC members, every success in the challenges that will undoubtedly lie ahead.

“Lawyers are never popular when holding the powerful and the wealthy to account, as many of our colleagues in other areas of law know only too well. But that role is vital to the rule of law, a cornerstone of our values here and in the wider, democratic, world”

While the impact of the pandemic in 2020 and 2021 affected our organisation greatly, early 2022 saw the end of specific COVID-19 restrictions. For APIL and our members it has been a year of transition, and while our working lives may now include more virtual interactions, there has been a welcome return to more face-to-face contact with colleagues and clients.



Brett Dixon
Secretary

At an operational level, 2022 required careful planning of activities to ensure we managed the financial risk of any ongoing uncertainties while continuing to deliver the training, events, networking and services our members demand. We ran a range of virtual, hybrid and in-person events, and it is to the credit of our staff and volunteers that we have maintained an excellent service for members as well as delivering in our campaigning work.

I am grateful for the leadership, work and commitment to our organisation shown by my fellow officers. Neil McKinley served as President until May 2022, when he then became Immediate Past President and our current President John McQuater was elected at the AGM in May. Both demonstrated strong and determined leadership as we emerged from the pandemic. Our Treasurer Jill Greenfield has worked closely with staff to steer our Association through a time of increased financial risk and our two Vice Presidents, Jonathan Scarsbrook and Suzanne Trask, have contributed hugely, in support of the President and in our campaigning and policy work.

Thanks to all members of the Executive Committee, our main Board. Congratulations to Stephen Glynn, elected to the EC at the 2022 AGM after the departure of Richard Barr. Former President Sam Elsby also left the EC in May. Victoria Lebrec, our first lay-person member of the EC, joined in January and Musa Garba joined as our second lay-person in May. Their appointments will help ensure strong representation in our decision-making for people whose lives have been affected by needless injury.

Thanks also to our volunteers, not just on the EC, but also as Secretaries and Coordinators of Special Interest and Regional Groups and the many informal working groups set up to consider policy matters.

The EC has introduced an extensive programme of governance improvements looking at various practical issues, and also how to refresh the EC by encouraging more members to stand for election.

In line with our Code of Good Governance I can report that John McQuater and Gordon Dalyell have served as directors on the EC for nine years or more.

My thanks to our hardworking staff led by our Chief Executive Mike Benner and the Senior Management Team. In 2022 we welcomed Jenni Scothern as our new Corporate Governance Manager, Nicola Tucker as Accounts Assistant, Asher Mayers-Thompson as Press and Communications Assistant, Ana Ramos as Legal Affairs Assistant and Kirsty Louise Montgomery as Membership Services Officer. Helen Blundell, Yvette Gamble, Alison Watson, Iman Anthony, Lizzy Fowler and Jo Donovan left us to take up new roles.

We have invested in improving our staff benefits to ensure that, in a competitive jobs market, we are able to retain our valued staff and attract the right candidates to vacancies as they arise. The staff headcount remains at 25.

This is my first year as Secretary and it has been a pleasure to work with my fellow Officers and EC members and our dedicated and talented staff team. It has also been very welcome for me to meet many of our members in person at our events this year.

“At an operational level, 2022 required careful planning to ensure we managed the financial risk of any ongoing uncertainties while continuing to deliver the training, events, networking and services our members demand”

For many of us 2022 will be remembered as a year of turbulence, characterised by the war in the Ukraine, the cost of living crisis, political turmoil, industrial action and the death of the Queen. As we began to emerge from the pandemic, these and other events have affected all of us and set a challenging back-drop to our day-to-day lives.

Despite the very real operational challenges arising from the impacts of the pandemic, we have worked to ensure your Association remained flexible and responsive, to enable us to stay focused on our vision of a *society without needless injury, but when people are injured they receive the justice they need to rebuild their lives.*

Like all organisations we have had to concentrate harder on operational matters to ensure we remain effective. The Executive Committee reviewed our strategic plan in June following its launch in the autumn of 2021, looking closely at progress and internal and external factors affecting our work, to ensure that we could look positively towards the future - with a genuine determination to succeed. It was clear that our strategic plan remained very relevant, and it has now been extended to 2025.



Mike Benner
Chief Executive Officer

It is excellent news that in 2022, as in 2020 and 2021 - despite the pressures and headwinds - we maintained our financial position, breaking-even and ensuring that we can continue to deliver a great service to members and much-needed campaigns for victims of negligence.

You will see that this annual report shows that we have achieved a great deal in 2022. This is due to the leadership of our Executive Committee, the commitment of all our volunteers on committees and groups, and the dedication and true grit determination of our staff team to get the job done.

We maintained our membership numbers at nearly 3,200 and continue to attract new members every day. Various new member benefits were introduced including the excellent mentoring hub, the APIL Future Leaders Community, a much-improved jobs board and the APIL PI Market Report produced in association with IRN. Our market-leading member benefits make APIL membership essential for anyone working in PI. The decision to simplify our membership categories from 2024 will attract a broader range of people involved in the client journey, making APIL the home of personal injury.

We have delivered huge improvements to our communications including a complete overhaul of our members' magazine PI Focus, a new website accessible to all our stakeholders, new email bulletins on events and insight, and new member webinars. We now have over 7,000 followers on LinkedIn, 11,000 on APIL's Twitter account and a 70% increase in Instagram followers, enabling us to spread our message far and wide.

Following the launch of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion plan in 2021, a major data-gathering project has provided us with a good understanding of which people are under-represented in APIL, and the Diversity Committee can now take meaningful steps to improve diversity over the coming months and years through initiatives such as

Harness Voices. Thank you to all of you who provided the data we needed to kick-start this important work.

These developments are in addition to our ever-popular training and events programme which delivered no fewer than 158 virtual, hybrid and in-person events, including six conferences, 85 webinars and 34 group meetings, all working together to create the community and network that is APIL.

In 2022 the Executive Committee also took a close look at its own governance and effectiveness resulting in a programme of improvements; not least a plan to encourage more members to start their volunteer journey in APIL, to enable us to keep the EC and other groups refreshed.

Our campaigns have had real impact in 2022.

There was no slowdown in momentum as we moved into the second phase of our flagship *Rebuilding Shattered Lives* campaign to rebuild public trust. We launched a second hard-hitting film, and reached over 300,000 people on social media in the autumn. Injury Prevention Week gained the support of 44 politicians and hundreds of members, building our credibility and influence. Taking our proactive campaign for reform of bereavement damages in England and Wales to Parliament at a special reception was a real highlight in November, and built essential support for change. Finally, our IICSA response showed the breadth of our campaigning, and highlighted the need for the Government to implement the Inquiry's recommendations without delay.

APIL responded to 25 consultations in 2022 across all jurisdictions, and

covering a wide range of topics to ensure prompt and full redress for victims of negligence. Thank you to members who have volunteered to serve on working groups to support our legal affairs team in this essential work.

We intervened in two legal cases, the outcomes of which will no doubt be relevant to many members and their clients.

In conclusion, while it has certainly been a rollercoaster of a year for us all, it has also been a very positive year for APIL. As we have transitioned from the restrictions of the pandemic, we have put the needs of injured people first and delivered a first-rate service to our members.

I am grateful to all our members and their firms for continuing to support our vital work, to those who have engaged in our activities and campaigns, and to our Executive Committee members for their leadership and hard work. Thank you to my colleagues on the APIL staff team whose dedication provides a daily source of inspiration to their Chief Executive.

"We have achieved a great deal in 2022. This is due to the leadership of our Executive Committee, the commitment of all our volunteers on committees and groups, and the dedication and true grit determination of our staff team to get the job done"

Following the adoption of APIL’s Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Action Plan in November 2021, the Executive Committee has formed a new sub-group, the Diversity Committee, to deliver the five-year plan. The Committee is supported by the Chief Executive and a Staff Working Group has been created to put activities into place.

The Diversity Committee reports progress to each EC meeting. The Committee is chaired by EC member Kim Harrison and its members are Jonathan Fogerty, Laura Hibberd, Michael Imperato, Justina Molloy, Alisha Puri, Trevor Sterling and Amey Welch. Candidates for the Committee were sought from across the membership in 2022. Thank you to my colleagues on the Committee who have volunteered to help with our work.

APIL’s EDI policy and plan is an essential step towards achieving APIL’s challenging strategic plan, *Building a Brighter Future for Injured People*.

Our EDI vision is to create a membership embracing inclusivity, celebrating diversity, and reflecting the communities we serve. We want to create a gold standard and lead by example in encouraging all our members’ firms to embrace and improve diversity.

A key element of our five-year plan is that we will embed diversity in all our activities across the organisation. Through this commitment and strong leadership, we will hopefully turn well-meaning words into genuine impacts in the coming months and years, measuring our

performance against milestones and key indicators, and taking steps to improve where we are failing.

The Harness Voices initiative was first launched in late 2021 and encourages members from under-represented groups to share their stories about their journey in personal injury law. The campaign has its own website featuring a number of member stories.

In March 2022 APIL began collecting a broad range of diversity data from its members to ensure we had the right information to inform our diversity plan and provide a benchmark to measure our progress. Thank you to all members who took part in this activity. As of October 2022, 54% of members had provided information and our initial analysis of that data therefore provides a very robust and reliable view of our membership. The Committee is now developing action plans to address areas of under-representation and also to create a framework of KPIs to work towards.

Work has also been undertaken to support major external events promoting diversity such as Pride and International Women’s Day in 2023.



Kim Harrison
Diversity Committee Chair

Networks are being created with diversity groups in other organisations to ensure we share best practice and ideas, and collaborate as appropriate.

The EC will review performance against the action plan regularly and report to members.

“A key element of our five-year plan is that we will embed diversity in all our activities across the organisation”



The APIL team – in alphabetical order

 Benner, Mike Chief Executive Officer	 Benjamin-Edwards, Tanya HR & Business Support Manager	 Collins, Daniel Digital Events Officer	 Ellis, Sam Public Affairs Manager	 Fleming, Paul Head of Business Development
 Gwinnutt, Lorraine Head of Public Affairs	 Hartwell, Jane Communications Manager	 Humphreys, Holly Accreditation Officer	 Humphries, Donna Head of Finance	 Jennings, Abi Head of Legal Affairs
 Lord, Anthony Digital Events Manager	 Lord, Marlene Head of Membership Services	 Mayers-Thompson, Asher Press and Communications Assistant	 McGlade, John Senior Policy Researcher	 Montgomery, Kirsty Louise Membership Services Officer
 Newman, Jacqui Experts & Public Enquiries Officer	 Rehman, Amir Digital Events Officer	 Raizada, Robert IT Manager	 Ramos, Ana Legal Affairs Assistant	 Scothern, Jenni Corporate Governance Manager
 Scott, Kathryn Senior Events Manager	 Smith, Sharon Membership & Accreditation Manager	 Taylor, Alice Legal Policy Manager	 Tucker, Nicola Accounts Assistant	 Weir, Leesha Public Enquiries Officer

Here's a snapshot of what APIL has achieved in 2022

2022

raising awareness

supporting interests

We influenced law and policy in support of injury victims

As a credible advocate for injured people, we responded to 25 consultations in 2022 on a range of topics stretching across our objectives. We informed government thinking on the evolving law on remote and driverless vehicles; we highlighted the potential dangers of human rights reforms (with our press work on this issue reaching 450,000 readers); and we recommended improvements to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. We also provided valuable contributions on issues including procedural and costs reform, a proposed statutory duty of candour in Wales, and proposals for mandatory mediation in small claims.

We guided injured people towards lawyers they can trust

This year we helped even more injured people to connect with a lawyer they can trust and to find the information they need. Our bright new website, designed to be easy for injured people to navigate, attracted almost 135,000 visitors. The number of enquiries we received from injured people grew by 21%, reaching 2,349 enquiries by the end of the year.

We were granted permission to intervene in a significant case on 'mixed' injuries

Our involvement in the cross-industry group set up to resolve the issue of whiplash mixed injury claims gave us the chance to intervene in the case of *Rabot v Hassam, Briggs v Laditan* on mixed injuries, explaining the impact for claimants. We were granted permission to intervene by the Court of Appeal and were represented by Hugh James solicitors and Rob Weir KC.

We reached across political divides to shine a spotlight on injury prevention

Our Injury Prevention Week campaign, which focused on safety measures for e-scooters, was supported by 44 cross-party politicians, underpinning our credibility as an organisation that can reach across political divides. Joining Westminster MPs in their support this year were members of the Scottish and Welsh parliaments, after we asked members of the devolved parliaments to get involved. MPs also used a parliamentary motion to support Injury Prevention Week for the first time, with an Early Day Motion tabled by Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) MP Jim Shannon and supported by Conservative, Labour, SNP, and DUP MPs, including DUP leader Sir Jeffrey Donaldson.

We raised public awareness of the positive role of personal injury lawyers

Our flagship Rebuilding Shattered Lives campaign, which highlights the devastating impact of injury and the work of personal injury lawyers, reached 300,000 people with its Victoria's Story film which was posted across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube from the autumn. More than 30 members came forward to help share our new centrepiece film through their firms' websites and social media accounts.

We used evidence to defend the right to receive fair compensation

At the start of the year, our executive committee member Guy Forster gave evidence to the House of Commons Health and Social Care Select Committee's ongoing inquiry into NHS litigation reform, explaining the negative consequences of a no-fault scheme in clinical negligence. Throughout 2022 we conducted a programme of consistent public-facing activity in relation to clinical negligence claims and patient safety; rebutting false claims while also advancing positive arguments, such as the need for an expanded remit for the new role of Patient Safety Commissioner for England. The high levels of national press coverage achieved showed the value of our approach of consistent rebuttal alongside constructive argument.

We helped injured people to resolve their claims more effectively through our continued work on building a collaborative approach

APIL continued to work constructively with FOIL and key insurers in relation to the Serious Injury Guide, which brings significant benefits to claimants, including early access to rehabilitation. Together with our partners we responded to feedback and updated the Guide to emphasise that even if one issue cannot be resolved, communication should continue and attempts should still be made to narrow the other issues in dispute. Meanwhile our pilot for removing the financial threshold within the Serious Injury Guide continued this year, and will end in June 2023. A decision on next steps will then be communicated to signatories.

We supported the interests of claimant practitioners in a case about qualified one-way costs shifting (QOCS)

APIL was granted permission to intervene in the Court of Appeal case of *Harrison v Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust*, putting forward arguments to protect the interests of claimants. APIL was represented by Roger Mallalieu KC at the appeal, which related to the operation of QOCS.

highlighting prevention

effective collaboration

2022

latest knowledge

growing strength

We built the foundations for diversity action by gathering the information we needed

We received a strong response from the APIL membership to our request for diversity data, with 54% of our members providing the information we needed to gain a reliable picture of the organisation. This data will now inform the work of our new Diversity Committee, formed in 2021, in developing action plans to address areas of under-representation, and creating a framework of key performance indicators to work towards.

We supported survivors of child abuse by pushing government to act promptly on IICSA's recommendations

We were swift to react to recommendations by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), issuing a press statement welcoming its recommendation to lift the three-year limitation period for historical sexual abuse cases and urging the government to implement this without delay. Work is ongoing into 2023 as we push the government for a better deal for survivors in light of IICSA's recommendations.

We amplified our voice by expanding our social media reach to a wider audience

Our @APIL Twitter account has almost 11,000 followers, with tweets reaching more than half a million Twitter users; and our Instagram followers grew by 70 per cent, engaging with a new demographic including charities and other campaign groups. On LinkedIn, a community of 7,000 practitioners and other professionals are now following APIL's work. This means that our key messages are now reaching even more people.

We helped our members give the best advice to clients by equipping them with the up-to-date legal and practical knowledge they need

We delivered 158 events virtually, in-person and as hybrid conferences, with truly outstanding feedback from members. A further 126 events were accredited and delivered by alternative providers, giving greater choice for members to accrue CPD.

There were 34 virtual or hybrid meetings of APIL's regional, membership, and special interest groups, which continued to grow in popularity. During the autumn, four of the 13 meetings were held in-person, with very positive feedback and members enjoying the networking opportunities. More in-person meetings are already in the schedule for 2023; and we have reduced the maximum term for group coordinators, creating opportunities for new faces and greater diversity in 2023.

We helped members to come together and consider longer-term challenges by creating a new APIL community

In September 2022 we set up our new Future Leaders Community, which will bring together early to mid-career members across a variety of firms. Its remit is to look at the future challenges the PI sector will be facing in 2032 and beyond. The Community's new Steering Group will start by looking at three key issues: access to justice; access to the profession and the role of AI and technology.

We improved jobs advertising for members by revamping our jobs board offer

In the last quarter of 2022 we redesigned our jobs board and formed a partnership with Daniel Lewis Law to provide a cost effective way for members to recruit new talent and receive maximum exposure for their adverts.

We maintained our strength in numbers and added more experts into the fold

This year saw a total membership of 3,168 members, maintaining our strength in numbers. We reviewed our membership categories, with a new simplified structure to be introduced in 2024.

We exceeded our target for experts, expanding our database to include 502 experts; with members making 13,400 expert searches during the year. We encouraged experts to become associate APIL members, increasing the diversity of professions within our ranks.

building foundations

amplifying voices

supporting survivors

recruiting talent

Pillar 1 Rebuild public trust

Misconceptions about the role and contribution of personal injury lawyers have resulted in low public trust and confidence in the sector. This in turn has fuelled misguided Government intervention to the detriment of genuinely injured people and the lawyers who support them. Knee-jerk Government policy has been shaped by populist, uninformed and prejudicial views. Even the image of claimants themselves has been damaged by the view that fraudulent claims increase insurance premiums. Too many injured people have felt ashamed to make a claim at a time when they needed help to recover from an injury.

This section of the report outlines the start of our work towards rebuilding public trust.

It was an extraordinary year for politics in 2022, with three prime ministers and a revolving door of ministers at both the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Health and Social Care. Politicians were also trying to tackle a cost-of-living crisis and deal with the UK's response to the war in Ukraine.

This was reflected in constantly changing political priorities. Some legislation already introduced into Parliament was put on hold, such as the Bill of Rights Bill, or even not introduced at all, such as expected legislation on e-scooters.

Our campaign work had to adjust to reflect the political mood, while maintaining its schedule of proactive campaign work; including focus on key priority areas such as clinical negligence, the Rebuilding Shattered Lives campaign, injury prevention and reform of bereavement damages.



300,000

people viewed the RSL film across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube

500

people went on to view other APIL content after viewing the film on Instagram

Rebuilding Shattered Lives

Our ongoing campaign to illustrate the devastating impact of injury and the work of personal injury lawyers continued at the start of the year with the sharing of more case study stories provided by APIL members on social media. This series was titled 'This is a True Story' and featured the real stories of clients who had been able to get their lives back on track after injury.

We unveiled a new centrepiece film in September, to a fantastic response. It featured APIL executive committee member Victoria Lebrech (pictured below) and was produced with the help of Nottingham-based Blackhawk Productions.

The film featured Victoria talking about her experience of life-changing injury both at her home and at the scene of her horrific crash. Over the final quarter of the year, it reached

more than 300,000 people across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. More than 30 members came forward to help share the film through their firms' websites and social media accounts.

Some social media posts featuring the film were targeted at specific audiences through paid-for promotions, including cyclists and young women living in London, like Victoria. Analytics show that a third of people who found the film on Facebook watched it. This is above the average expected for promotions, showing that Victoria's story really struck a chord with audiences.

More than a fifth of people engaged with the film in some way, by commenting, liking or sharing the post. More than 500 people also went to look at our other output on Instagram after seeing the film.



Severe Injury Help Hub

We continued to promote the Severe Injury Help Hub in 2022 with a dedicated series of social media activity, on Instagram in particular. The hub acts as a signpost to resources, and answers some questions and concerns that families may have in the event of a severe injury. It highlights APIL's commitment to serving injured people and their families.

Behind the scenes, a new phase of activity was devised and mapped out to expand the Severe Injury Help Hub's reach over the following 12 months.

Pillar 1 Rebuild public trust

Cold Calling

APIL has consistently called for an outright ban on cold calls and spam texts about personal injury claims. The Government had introduced rules in 2018 that were designed to tackle the number of these calls and texts, and could have easily dismissed the need for any further action. At the invitation of Julia Lopez, minister for digital, however, APIL met with civil servants from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport who described themselves as “in listening mode” and were keen to understand why the current rules do not go far enough.

Discussions were superseded when the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill was introduced into the House of Commons in July. This

presented an opportunity to raise the issue again, and we sent a political briefing to MPs urging them to amend the Bill to introduce a ban.

The briefing included the results of a new YouGov survey that we commissioned, which showed that in a 12-month period, almost half of UK adults had received a cold call or spam text about a personal injury claim. Between June 2021 and June 2022, UK adults received an estimated 162 million cold calls and texts about PI claims. The response to these calls was often visceral: of the 22.1 million UK adults who received one of these calls or texts, 88% were left feeling annoyed, angry, anxious, disgusted, or upset.

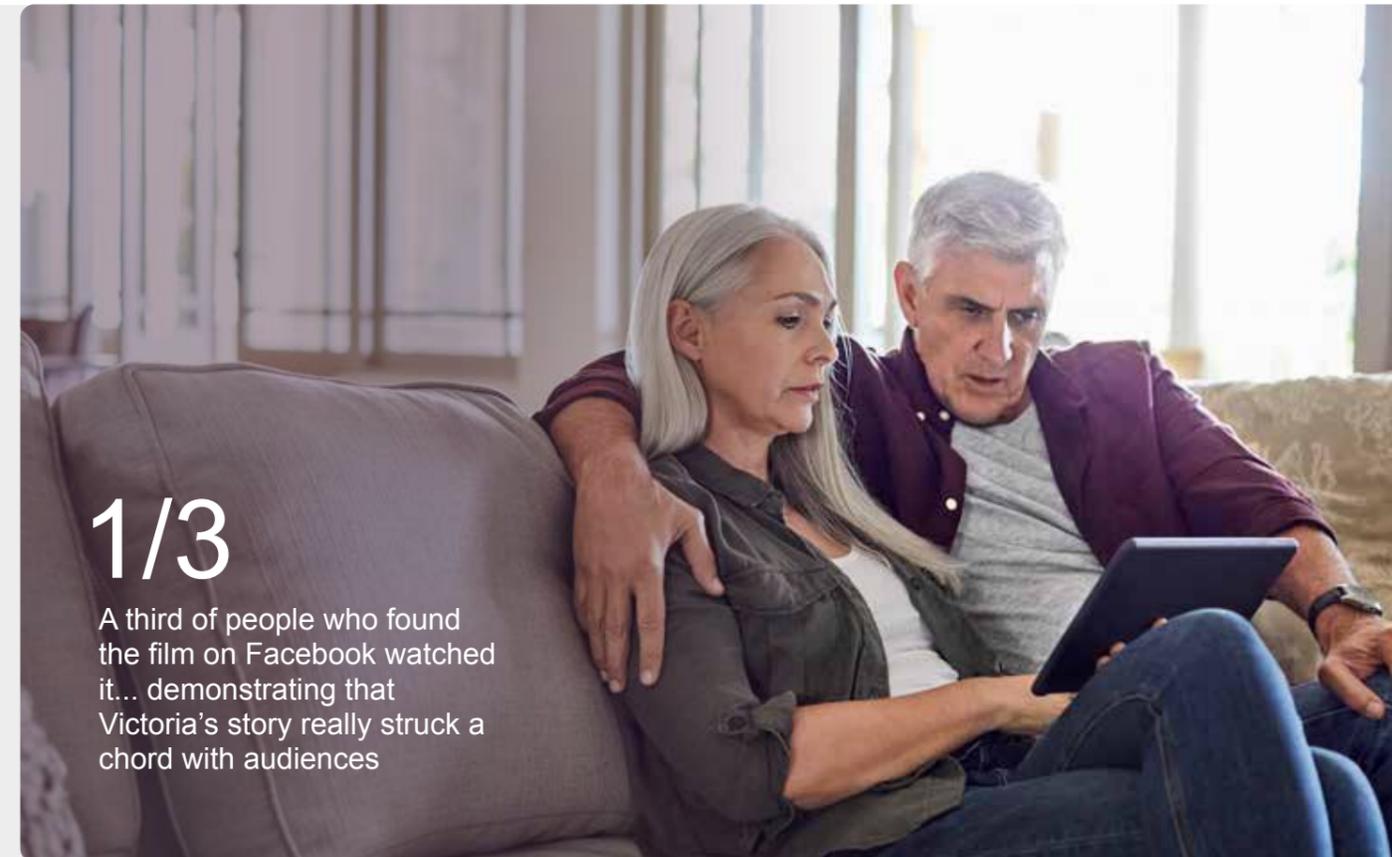
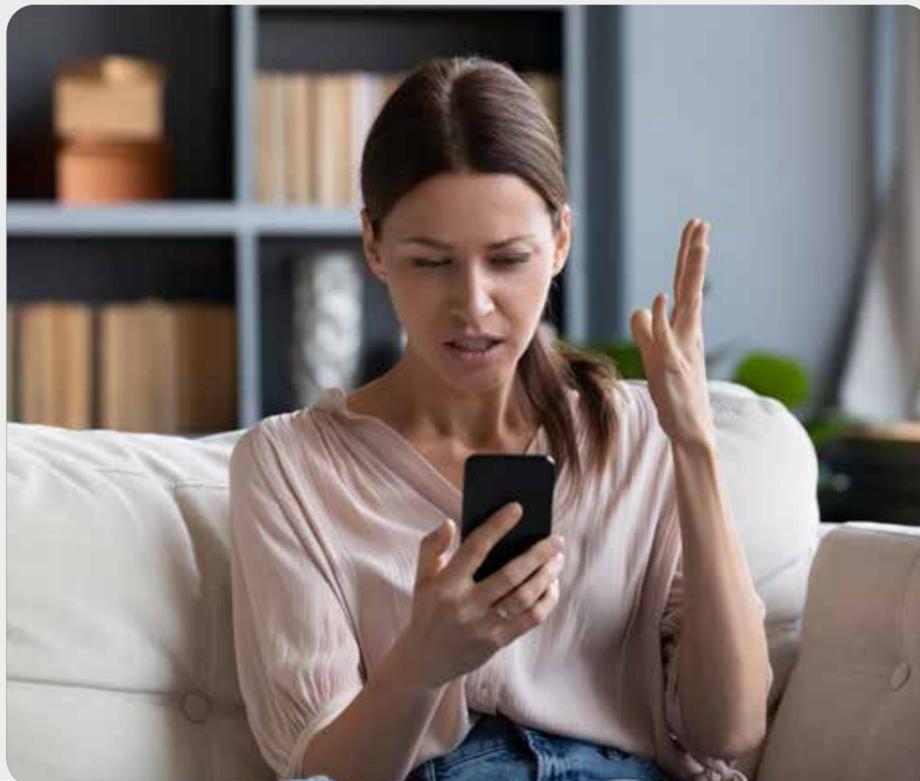
YouGov’s polling showed that there is huge support from the public for a total ban on personal injury cold calls

and texts. Indeed, almost all (96%) of those who have received a call or text support a total ban.

First debate on the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill was pulled from the parliamentary agenda in one of Liz Truss’ first acts after she was named Prime Minister, but APIL is ready to capitalise on cross-party interest generated by its briefing at senior levels.

88% were left feeling annoyed, angry, anxious, disgusted, or upset

Half of UK adults received a cold call or spam text about a personal injury claim



1/3

A third of people who found the film on Facebook watched it... demonstrating that Victoria’s story really struck a chord with audiences

Social Media Reach

APIL’s LinkedIn page now has 7,000 followers, an increase over the year of 15 per cent. It remains a vital tool for connecting with professionals. One post, detailing how APIL and MASS had been granted permission by the Court of Appeal to intervene in whiplash test cases, was seen by almost 5,000 people without promotion. It received 84 reactions, and eight reposts.

The @APIL Twitter account has almost 11,000 followers. Our tweets reached more than half a million Twitter users in 2022.

The Instagram account, which focuses on content relevant to consumers and charities, had a 70 per cent increase in followers due to a new strategy and engagement through the Rebuilding Shattered Lives campaign.

The @APIL Twitter account has almost **11,000** followers. Our tweets reached more than half a million Twitter users in 2022

Over the final quarter of the year, the film reached more than **300,000** people across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube

One LinkedIn post was seen by almost **5,000** people without promotion. It received 84 reactions, and eight reposts

Pillar 2 Prevent needless injury

Despite progress in the prevention of needless injury in the UK, more could be done by prioritising injury prevention through a renewed focus on public health. Injury prevention policy is far-reaching and there are many stakeholders. APIL's specific interest is in stamping out needless injury, ie. injury caused by the negligence of others.

This section of the report highlights what has been done this year to champion this aspect of injury prevention and the work conducted with others to improve on the current disjointed approach.

Injury Prevention Week

Social media channels buzzed with messages about preventing needless harm during APIL's Injury Prevention Week in June. The event focussed on e-scooters and the safety measures we believe should be in place if plans to legalise privately owned e-scooters go ahead, including speed restrictions, compulsory training and helmets.

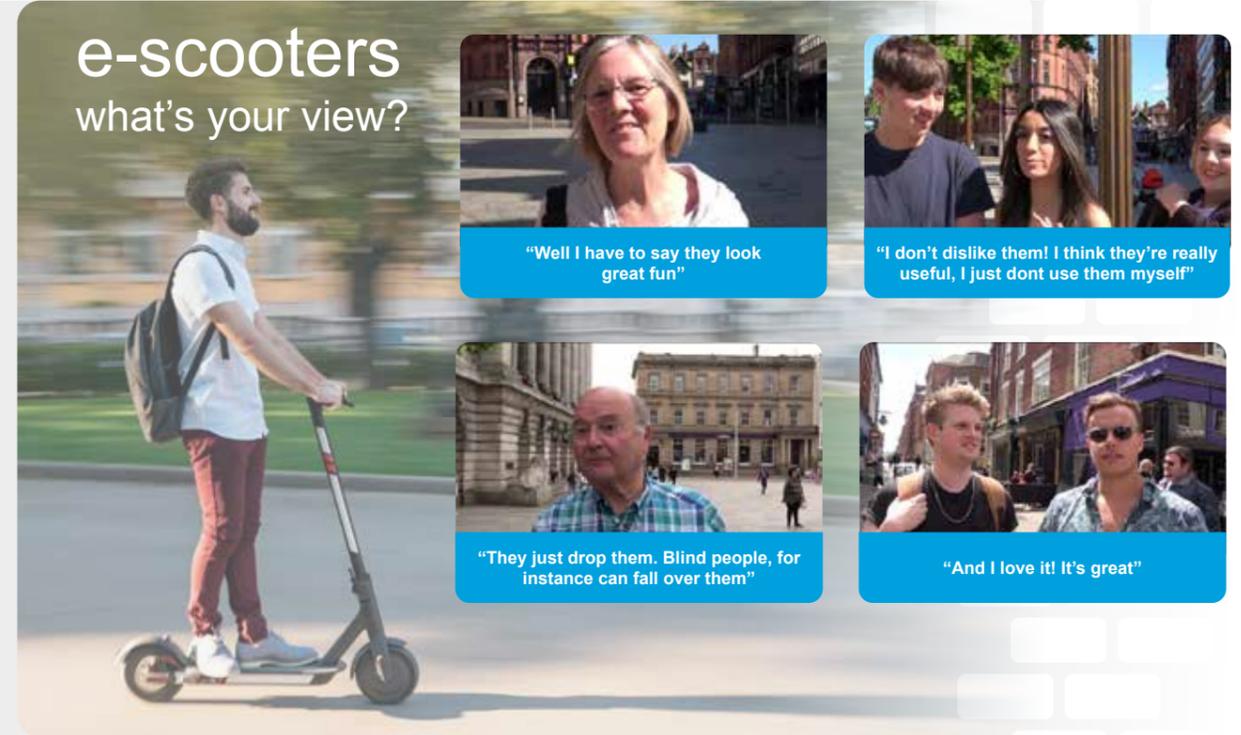
In a fantastic show of support for the initiative, forty firms posted their own content or APIL's content, including our 'vox pop' video in which the people of Nottingham shared their candid views on e-scooters. The video was watched 10,000 times on Instagram. Some firms even created their own videos, and twenty took the opportunity to post blogs.

While much of the action played out on social media, the campaign also gained exposure on multiple regional news websites, and on trade outlet Insurance Post.

There was cross-party political support for Injury Prevention Week, with 44 politicians helping to raise awareness of the physical, emotional, and financial consequences of avoidable injuries. Joining Westminster MPs in showing their support this year were members of the Scottish and Welsh parliaments, after we asked members of the devolved parliaments to get involved.

For the third year running, politicians took to social media to show their support for Injury Prevention Week, with many sharing a picture of themselves holding a poster produced by APIL (see right). They included Welsh Government deputy minister Jane Bowden; Scottish National Party (SNP) member of the Scottish Parliament John Mason; and Jo Stevens, a member of Labour's shadow cabinet at Westminster. John Griffiths, a member of the Welsh Parliament, even recorded a video message in support of APIL's campaign.

For the first time, MPs also used a parliamentary motion to support Injury Prevention Week. The Early Day Motion was tabled by Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) MP Jim Shannon, and was supported by Conservative, Labour, SNP, and DUP MPs, including DUP leader Sir Jeffrey Donaldson.



Social media channels buzzed with messages about preventing needless harm during APIL's Injury Prevention Week in June

Pillar 2 Prevent needless injury

Statutory duty of candour in Wales

In December APIL responded to a Welsh Government consultation on the statutory guidance and regulations required to implement the duty of candour in Wales.

We welcomed the proposed threshold of harm, in line with those already set in England and Scotland. We agreed with the timeframes proposed for annual reporting, and that it is reasonable that the duty of candour report should be aligned to the existing annual Putting Things Right report already in place, to avoid duplication.

We also welcomed updating the PTR Guidance to reflect current practice. However, we expressed our concern that removing the NHS bodies' discretion in respect of offers is unnecessary, and can lead to problems in low-value civil claims where proportionality is likely to be an issue.

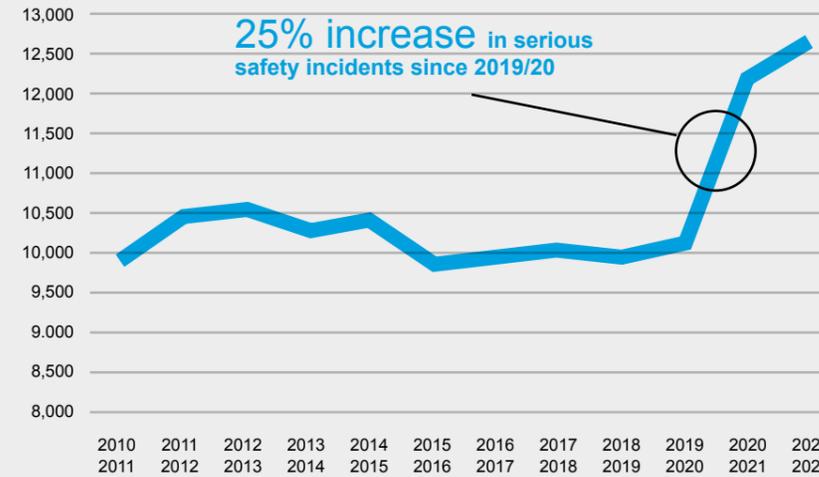
The standard of safety for self-driving vehicles should be "overall, safer than the average human driver"

Road safety

APIL responded to a number of consultations this year on the law surrounding remote and driverless vehicles. We support new technologies, but we warned of the dangers if the law does not keep pace.

In response to a Law Commission consultation, we recommended a wide form of strict liability on the motor insurer that applies to remotely driven vehicles. It is essential that there is a strict liability regime that allows injured people to bring a claim against the insurer or the Motor Insurer's Bureau (MIB) (for uninsured vehicles) and receive compensation, even if the collision was caused by a fault in the vehicle.

Responding to a Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles' consultation on a new safety framework for self-driving vehicles, we expressed concern with the proposed standard of safety for these vehicles. CCAV proposes that the standard for autonomous vehicles should be that expected of human drivers (competent and careful). We recommended that the standard of safety for self-driving vehicles should be "overall, safer than the average human driver" in order to improve safety and public trust.



12,675 patient safety incidents in 2021/22; an average of 35 every day

2,500 rise in patient safety incidents since 2019/20

Rise in deaths and serious harm

Analysis of NHS England data found that patient safety incidents resulting in severe harm or death were up 25% on pre-pandemic levels.

Since 2010 NHS organisations in England have been mandated to report all patient safety incidents resulting in severe harm or death. In 2021/22, there were 12,675 such incidents – an average of 35 every day.

The number of these incidents has increased by more than 2,500 since 2019/20. While the pandemic and its impact on the NHS may have contributed to this increase, it is unlikely to provide the entire story. Even prior to the pandemic, the number of safety incidents had been on the rise, with incidents resulting in severe harm or death increasing by 2% between 2010/11 and 2019/20.

A joint open letter signed by APIL chief executive Mike Benner and published by The Guardian called for Conservative leadership candidates to uphold and strengthen common sense protections

Building partnerships: UncheckedUK

A joint open letter signed by APIL chief executive Mike Benner and published by *The Guardian* on 31 August 2022 called for Conservative leadership candidates Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss to uphold and strengthen common sense protections. The letter was put together by campaign organisation UncheckedUK, of which APIL is a supporter, and signed by representatives of 40 organisations.

As the Government made decisions on the future of regulations in the UK following Brexit, APIL also backed UncheckedUK's pledge for MPs, which called on them to uphold the UK's global leadership in setting strong rules that protect public health, and ensure worker and consumer safety.

Pillar 3 Prompt and full redress

APIL campaigns effectively through evidence-based, policy-driven submissions and public affairs activity, taking both reactive and proactive stances as needed. We identify and respond to threats and opportunities that arise, and proactively focus on major campaigns such as bereavement damages; while also making our views known on issues such as costs reform, changes to the coronial process and human rights reform.

Identifying threats to injured people

Clinical negligence work

Our work on clinical negligence issues has taken the double approach of reacting to reform proposals that would not benefit injured patients, and proactively promoting the need for leadership and a coherent patient safety strategy.

The proactive work has focussed largely on the need to extend the currently very narrow remit of the new Patient Safety Commissioner for England in favour of an overarching role that could provide a holistic approach to patient safety. This would replace the current 'patchwork quilt' of safety recommendations and initiatives that do little to enhance patient safety while putting greater pressure on over-burdened NHS clinicians.

Clinical negligence – in Parliament

Executive committee member Guy Forster started the year by defending the right of injured patients to receive full and fair compensation, in an evidence session with MPs.

The session was held as the House of Commons Health and Social Care Select Committee (HSCC) continued its inquiry into NHS litigation reform, with a particular focus on the cost of clinical negligence claims to the NHS. Jeremy Hunt, then committee chair, appeared wedded to the idea of a no-fault compensation scheme. Guy warned that this would increase the number of claims because the threshold for a claim would be lower, and the costs would become

unsustainable. He also cautioned against "tariffs or tokenistic types of damages" to keep costs down because they are "not responsive to the needs of injured people".

In the end, the committee recommended a no-fault scheme initially limited to maternity claims. APIL wasted no time in warning both the Government and the official opposition that our own analysis had found a no-fault scheme could cost between £14 billion and £27.8 billion a year in payments for damages against the NHS in England. We also met with shadow health minister Feryal Clark to discuss the need for a focus on patient safety and full and fair compensation for injured patients.



This is part of a growing media trend for paying more attention to harm suffered by patients rather than the financial impact of paying for the negligence

APIL's comment was picked up by The Times in a significant article which recognised the argument that clinical claims stem from a drastic need for improvements in patient safety

Clinical negligence – in the media

We have conducted a programme of consistent public-facing activity in relation to clinical negligence claims and patient safety throughout 2022.

The year began with publication of a research report commissioned by APIL. *The Value of Compensation* included qualitative research from injured patients about how financial redress helped them after they were injured through clinical negligence. The report was reported on online legal news resource *Lexology*, which has 600,000 subscribers, and in an article for the *British Journal of Nursing*.

APIL's evidence to the Health and Social Care Committee on NHS litigation was covered in *Law Society Gazette*, *Legal Futures*, and *The New Statesman*.

When the Health and Social Care Committee published its report, our reaction was published by *The Guardian*, *Yahoo*, *Lexology*, *Sky News* and others. Guy Forster also gave television interviews to Channel 5's evening news programme and the Sky News channel. His comments were syndicated by Sky across its affiliated regional radio websites, including Smooth and Heart.

We reacted swiftly to criticism of lawyers who represent injured patients by *The Guardian* columnist Polly Toynbee, who also expressed her support for a no-fault 'administrative' scheme. The newspaper published a letter of response to the column from chief executive Mike Benner.

Throughout all the work on clinical negligence, we called for the new role of Patient Safety Commissioner for England to be given a wider remit, in a bid to tackle the patient safety crisis. We supplied regional newspaper health reporters with patient safety incident and 'never event' figures about the NHS trusts in their areas, to highlight this need.

Following publication of NHS Resolution's annual report in July, APIL's comment was picked up by *The Times* in a significant article which recognised the argument that clinical claims stem from a drastic need for improvements in patient safety; thereby moving the narrative on from straight criticism of claims numbers. This is part of a growing media trend for paying more attention to harm suffered by patients rather than the financial impact of paying for the negligence. Direct criticism of injured patients' representatives, like that of Ms

Toynbee, is also far rarer than a decade ago. This shows the value of consistent rebuttal alongside constructive argument.

Our initial reaction to a Department of Health and Social Care consultation on a fixed process for lower-value clinical negligence claims was published in *The Times*, *The Times* Scottish edition, *Politics UK* and others. APIL Vice-President Suzanne Trask took part in a live discussion on Times Radio with presenter John Pienaar. A letter from Suzanne about the proposals and the suggested 'no fault' scheme was also printed in *Law Society Gazette*.

Comments in a blog by Mike Benner about the raft of reasons why a no-fault scheme for clinical negligence claims would not work in the UK made headlines in the *Law Society Gazette*. Readers echoed APIL's position in an expression of criticism for the suggested plans for a scheme. APIL's analysis of the costs associated with a 'no fault' scheme was picked up by *The Times* and *The Scotsman*.

Pillar 3 Prompt and full redress

Bereavement damages – in Parliament

MPs were left shocked and appalled after hearing from someone with first-hand experience of the law on bereavement damages in England and Wales. At an APIL event in Parliament, MPs learnt about the outdated law and the effect it can have when people are told their relationship with a loved one is not considered important enough for compensation.

Sabiha Ozseker was denied bereavement damages after the death of her father due to clinical negligence, and was put into contact with APIL by her solicitor from Leigh Day, Michael Roberts. She wanted to use her experience to support APIL's campaign, and help convince MPs of the urgent need to modernise the law. Sabiha's experience cut through with MPs,

who offered political support for the campaign.

Meanwhile investigations continued to establish why the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) continues to refuse to consider reform of the law. We worked with shadow justice minister Anna McMorrin, who asked a series of parliamentary questions in an attempt to elicit answers. Justice minister Tom Pursglove remained tight-lipped, and refused to publish any information to add clarity to the MoJ's position. Alongside this, we continued to pursue a request under the Freedom of Information Act for all documents related to the MoJ's decision not to reform the law. Civil servants told us that the information was exempt from publication, partly because APIL's own lobbying meant "this issue is subject to ongoing review."

Bereavement damages – in the media

2022 marked 40 years since the law on bereavement damages was passed in England and Wales, and APIL took every opportunity to talk about the need for reform publicly.

Press material included a press release highlighting Office of National Statistics data showing that most new fathers are unmarried, and so not eligible for statutory bereavement damages in England and Wales. Another release about the data in Northern Ireland was printed in *Irish Legal News*, an online outlet with more than 50,000 readers every month.

Insurance Post published a detailed comment piece about the need for reform by APIL president John McQuater, which generated an outpouring of support from practitioners when shared on social media.

Bereavement damages were the subject of a week of tweets to raise awareness of the need for reform. Our social media presence during the parliamentary reception about bereavement damages was also well received and included photographs of MPs at the event, along with Sabiha Ozseker.



Judicial Review and Courts Bill

APIL continued to lobby for improvements to the coronial process for bereaved families, as the Judicial Review and Courts Bill progressed through Parliament. The Bill had started in the House of Commons the year before, with the intention to remove unnecessary procedures in the coroners' court, and speed up the process for bereaved families. We continued our calls for the Bill to be amended to allow legal aid for representation for bereaved families at inquests where public authorities are legally represented.

Attention turned to the House of Lords, where peers accepted arguments on the importance of legal aid, and voted to amend the Bill. The legal aid amendment was later removed by MPs, but not before Conservative MP and justice committee chair Sir Bob Neill quoted from APIL's briefing as he urged his colleagues against removing the amendment.

We also secured cross-party support in the House of Lords for amendments to add safeguards to the Government's proposals in the Bill. Peers, including Labour's shadow justice minister Lord

Ponsonby of Shulbrede, recognised that safeguards were needed to ensure families were not denied the answers they need from an inquest. However, this cross-party support was not enough for the amendments to be added to the Bill.

The subject of funding for inquests captures the attention of passionate lawyers on social media. Whenever APIL talks about the imbalance in legal representation at inquests involving the State, representatives of bereaved families are roused into support and relay their own experiences.

This was the case when a post on Twitter about the missed opportunity in the Judicial Review and Courts Bill to provide funding for legal aid at inquests involving the State was seen 37,508 times by Twitter users. It was re-tweeted 63 times, and was liked by 109 people, making it the most prolific non-promoted tweet for APIL of 2022.

In fact, engagement with content on APIL's Twitter account during March 2022, when APIL was sharing frequently about the opportunity in the Bill, was some of the highest we have ever seen.

APIL continued to lobby for improvements to the coronial process for bereaved families

We secured cross-party support in the House of Lords for amendments to add safeguards to the Government's proposals in the Bill

MPs were left shocked and appalled after hearing from someone with first-hand experience of the law on bereavement damages



Pillar 3 Prompt and full redress

Defending right to redress

APIL has a zero-tolerance approach to damaging or misleading media reports about injured people and the right to claim compensation. We issue letters of response to articles and, whenever possible, we provide comments for articles through contact with journalists. We have provided comment to defend the right to claim and to point out the devastation caused by negligence in relation to several national stories, including about wrong-site amputations, claims by members of the armed forces, injured prisoners, and a specialist gender clinic's use of puberty blocking drugs. National media coverage included *The Times*, *The Sun*, *the Daily Star*, *The Scottish Sun*, *Daily Express*, and *Daily Mail*.

Response to IICSA final report

APIL was quick to react to the final report and recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) when it was published in October. In a press statement, we welcomed a recommendation to lift the three-year limitation period for historical sexual abuse cases and called for it to be implemented without delay. Work is ongoing into 2023 as we push the Government for a better deal for survivors in light of IICSA's recommendations.

Consultation responses

Modern Bill of Rights

In response to the Government's consultation on a Modern Bill of Rights, APIL highlighted the importance of human rights claims for armed forces personnel and veterans, survivors and victims of abuse, and those injured through clinical negligence.

The Human Rights Act is a powerful tool for holding public bodies to account, and in some cases provides a vital route to redress and closure where there otherwise would be none. In its response, APIL challenged the assumption that largely "unmeritorious" human rights claims are easily brought and won, and that there is uncertainty for public bodies about what their duties are in relation to the Act. We raised concerns about proposals to introduce a "permission stage" for human rights claims, and that claimants should exhaust all other remedies before bringing such an action. We warned that these proposals were simply an attempt to make these claims extremely difficult, or even impossible, to bring.

Our letter to the press condemning plans to dismantle the Human Rights Act as 'abhorrent' reached 450,000 regional newspaper readers, after being picked up by 45 titles including the *Southern Daily Echo*, the *Sheffield Star*, and the *Leicester Mercury*.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

In June, APIL responded to the MoJ's supplementary consultation on the review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (CICS). We advocated that applications to the scheme should be analysed on a case-by-case basis to reflect the merits of the claim and the factors that might have influenced an applicant's criminal record. There should be a return to a discretionary approach where an applicant has a criminal record.

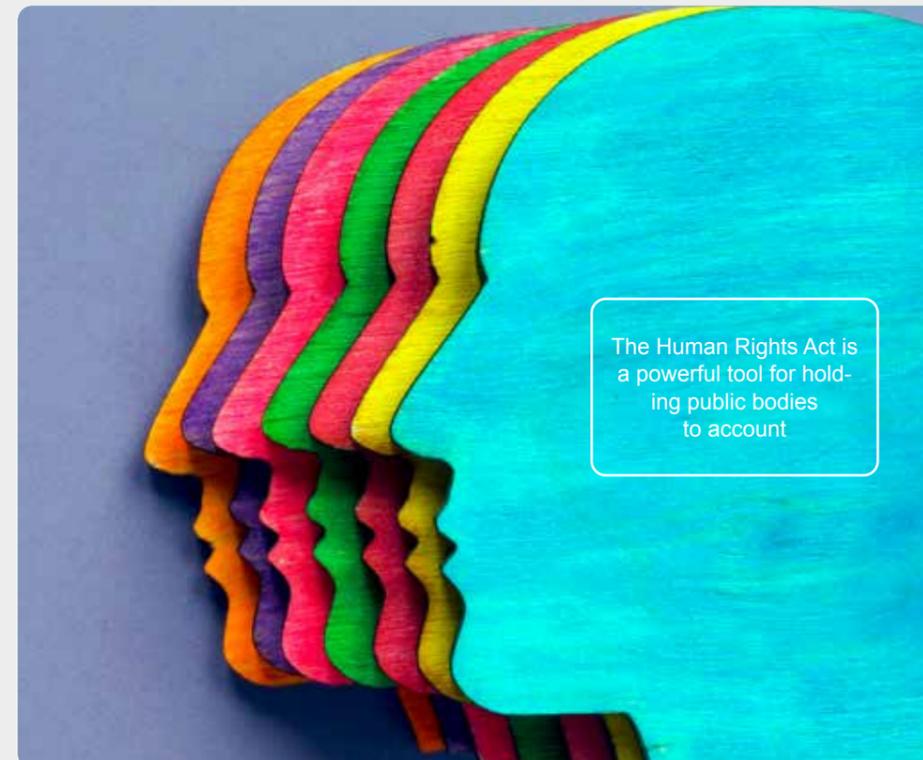
We warned that these proposals were simply an attempt to make these claims extremely difficult, or even impossible, to bring

Interventions

Applications to intervene in appeals are a way for APIL to help ensure prompt and full redress for injured people. The Challenging Judgments Working Party (CJWP) is made up of the president (vice-president to delegate if necessary), the treasurer, a barrister member from the EC and two other EC members to be appointed according to the subject matter under consideration. The CJWP has delegated authority from the EC to act. Its purpose is to consider members' requests for APIL to provide assistance in their clients' cases. This may be a request for us to intervene in an appeal or judicial review; or to assist by providing data or evidence to help with a claim. We considered three interventions this year. Two were taken forward.

Harrison v Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust: APIL was approached by solicitors acting for Ms Harrison. The appeal related to the interpretation of the civil procedure rules and the relationship between Part 36 and qualified one-way costs shifting. APIL instructed Roger Mallalieu KC from 4 New Square Chambers to provide written and oral submissions to the court.

APIL was also granted permission to intervene in the joined appeals of *Rabot v Hassam*, *Briggs v Laditan*. APIL was represented in the Court of Appeal by Hugh James solicitors and Rob Weir KC of Devereux Chambers. The appeal related to the construction of section 3 of the Civil Liability Act 2018 and how tariff and non-tariff injuries are assessed. Our intervention was made in conjunction with the Motor Accident Solicitors Association.



The Human Rights Act is a powerful tool for holding public bodies to account

Mandatory mediation for small claims

2022 saw the continued push for alternative methods of dispute resolution to become the "norm". In September, APIL responded to MoJ proposals to introduce an hour-long mandatory telephone mediation for all small claims cases. We support alternative methods of dispute resolution generally, and would welcome a more structured approach to dispute resolution in lower-value personal injury claims. However, we warned that a "one size fits all" mandatory telephone mediation for every small claims case would simply lead to increased costs and delays in the running of these cases. Personal injury small claims cases should be outside of the scope of these proposals.

Pillar 3 Prompt and full redress

Procedural reform

In order to ensure prompt and full redress for injured people, the procedural framework within which our members operate must be fit for purpose. APIL has responded to several consultations on procedural reform this year, as part of the Civil Procedure Rule Committee's (CPRC) rolling consultations on simplifying the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR).

We responded to consultations proposing amendments to CPR Parts 14, 15, 16; and Parts 19, 20 and 21 and their accompanying Practice Directions. We welcomed most of the amendments proposed by the CPRC. We also highlighted occasions where changes have been chosen for brevity, rather than clarity's sake, and which may make the rules more difficult to follow; especially for those less familiar, such as litigants in person and junior lawyers. In response to the consultation on CPR Part 21, we warned that importing parts of a Practice Direction into a rule may cause problems in practice and create satellite litigation.

There were several costs-related consultations this year. It is vital that the costs regime is effective and fair, to maintain access to redress. In June, the CPRC (in conjunction with the MoJ) consulted on changes to the qualified one-way costs shifting (QOCS) rules. The Government felt that in light of the decisions in *Ho v Adelekun*, and *Cartwright v Venduct*

Engineering, more unmeritorious cases would be brought. We argued that proposed changes, including a removal of the court's discretion in relation to set off, were unnecessary and failed to reflect the key purpose of, and policy behind, QOCS. We suggested that there should be no changes made to QOCS, but if CPRC is not minded to accept this, that the rules should be amended to reflect the Scottish approach.

The MoJ and CPRC also consulted on the introduction of a rule to allow extra costs in cases with a vulnerable party or witness. We welcomed the recognition that vulnerability attracts extra costs. However, the rule must be developed further to ensure that it works in practice and is not simply tokenistic.

We also responded to consultations on the costs regime generally, and proposed fixed costs in lower-value clinical negligence claims. On the latter, we highlighted that if a predictable process is in place, there is no reason that costs cannot then be properly calculated to bring benefits to both the claimant and defendant.

We called for any fixed costs regime to exclude vulnerable claimants, on the grounds of complexity. We highlighted the concern among members that the fees proposed are not financially viable – the Government having disregarded research by the claimant profession to cost the process. We also raised

concerns about the proposed "light track" for the most straightforward cases, with the complex evidential requirements required within the track making it cost-prohibitive.

Responding to the Civil Justice Council's strategic review of costs, we said costs budgeting should remain, but in an amended format, and that Guideline Hourly Rates should be retained but uprated for inflation.

We also called for existing fixed costs, and those due to be introduced in October 2023, to be subject to an inflationary increase. We echoed the importance of fixed costs being brought in line with inflation in our response to the CJC's supplementary consultation following the decision in *Belsner v CAM Legal Services*.

Scotland

In June, APIL responded to the Scottish Law Commission's (SLC) discussion paper on damages for personal injury.

We were supportive of the wide-ranging proposals throughout the SLC's paper, including amendments to the definition of "relative" in the Administration of Justice Act 1982, to reflect the realities of modern society. We strongly agreed that section 2(4) of the Law Reform (Personal Injuries) Act 1948 should remain in force.

The suggested reversal of *Aitchison* in asbestos related disease cases, to allow those with pleural plaques to bring a claim for a more serious asbestos related disease even if they did not initially claim for the plaques, was also a welcome step forward.

The proposed reforms on limitation do not go far enough, however; as we set out in our response to the SLC consultation on its eleventh programme of law reform. Here, we recommended that *Aitchison* should be reversed for all personal injury cases, not just those relating to pleural plaques. A non-exhaustive list of factors that the court should take into account when deciding whether to waive the limitation period should also be enshrined in legislation. Further, an amended definition of "constructive" knowledge should be introduced without further delay.

We also raised concerns that the Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 2010 does not apply to historic claims, in its response to the eleventh programme of reform.

Northern Ireland

APIL responded to the Department of Justice for Northern Ireland's consultation on audio and video links for court and tribunal hearings. We supported the greater use of technology and remote hearings for procedural / interlocutory matters and review hearings, due to its efficiency. We welcomed the proposal for a default position enshrined in legislation, setting out the circumstances in which a hearing must take place face to face.

We suggested that where there is an evidential hearing, it should be held face to face with the option for parties to depart from this position if they agree to do so. We have recommended that the court, on careful consideration of a range of factors, should be able to decide that a remote hearing is appropriate in cases where the statutory presumption applies.



Pillar 3 Prompt and full redress

Building partnerships



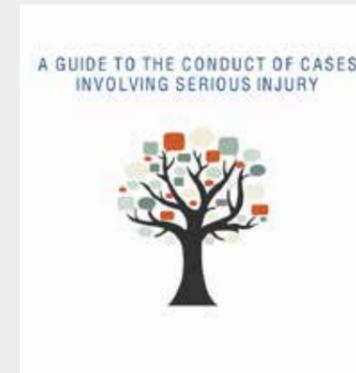
The Alliance for Injured People (AIP) is a collaboration of not-for-profit organisations dedicated to supporting injured people

Alliance for injured people

Our work has continued with a group of like-minded charities to help broaden the reach of campaign work and support for injured people.

The Alliance for Injured People (AIP) is a collaboration of not-for-profit organisations dedicated to supporting injured people who are facing adversity; supporting bereaved families; and advancing their interests to policymakers.

Facilitated by APIL, this mutually supportive group currently comprises RoadPeace, Mesothelioma UK, Patient Safety Learning, the Limbless Association, and the Back Up Trust. It meets every quarter to share ideas and it is hoped that the group will eventually form the basis of a wider network.



Serious Injury Guide

APIL's longstanding collaboration with FOIL and key road traffic insurers continues. The pilot for the removal of the financial threshold within the Serious Injury Guide continued in 2022. It will come to an end in June 2023, with a decision on next steps being communicated to signatories.

Following feedback from signatories, the steering group amended the guide slightly this year, and the updated version was circulated and uploaded to the Serious Injury Guide website. The amendment, at section 8 of the guide, reminds signatories that even if one issue cannot be resolved via the guide, this should not mean that there is a complete breakdown of communication, and attempts should still be made to narrow the other issues in dispute.

Cross industry group on rehabilitation

APIL continued its involvement in the Cross Industry Group on rehabilitation in soft tissue injury cases in 2022. At the start of the year, the group met with the Association of Consumer Support Organisations, who had drafted their own process for rehab in online injury claims cases. The MoJ had asked the groups to agree on a single process, and much of 2022 was dedicated to attempts to agree this. While there are a few outstanding issues relating to the process, these have been parked in favour of establishing a governance framework. Work is now underway to ascertain the feasibility of MedCo undertaking a governance role.

NHS Resolution

APIL held regular meetings with NHSR throughout the year on issues such as the early notification scheme for birth injury cases. We also held several exploratory meetings about the serious injury guide.



Pillar 3 Prompt and full redress

Research and analysis

Research and the analysis of data provides APIL with evidence to support our policy and campaign work.

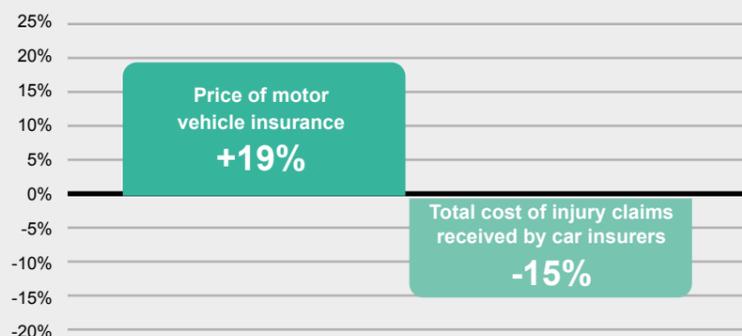
Impact of 'whiplash reforms'

Throughout the year, our research highlighted the failures of the Government's 'whiplash reforms':

- Insurers have failed to deliver on their promise that the reforms would result in lower car insurance premiums. Our analysis of Office for National Statistics data found that the price of motor insurance has increased by 19% since the reforms were introduced. Over the same period, the total cost of injury claims received by car insurers fell by 15%.
- The number of road injury victims accessing justice fell dramatically after the reforms came in. In 2021, the year in which the reforms were introduced, the number of motor injury claims fell by 20% when compared to 2020, despite an 11% increase in road casualties over the same period. More people were being injured, but there were fewer claims.
- Unrepresented claimants are struggling to grapple with the Official Injury Claim (OIC) system, through which claims affected by the reforms are made. Our analysis found that, for every ten unrepresented claimants using the system, more than six calls for support are being made to the OIC's support centre. Such a substantial number of calls clearly shows that the OIC is not the easy-to-use system promised by Government.

Up 19%
Price of motor insurance since whiplash reforms introduced

Down 15%
Cost of injury claims received by car insurers since whiplash reforms



Insurers have failed to deliver on their promise that the reforms would result in lower car insurance premiums

Workplace injuries and illness

APIL's analysis of Health and Safety Executive (HSE) data found that employer liability claims are plummeting despite a huge rise in work-related injuries and illness.

In 2021/22, 872,000 workers suffered a work-related injury which resulted in over seven days of absence or became ill because of their work. This is up 37% since 2018/19. Over the same period the number of employer liability claims fell by 51%. More workers are becoming ill or being injured because of their work, but there are fewer claims.

This means that injured and ill workers are now far less likely to seek redress. Of those injured or made ill because of their work in 2021/22, just 5% made an employer liability claim, down from 14% in 2018/19.

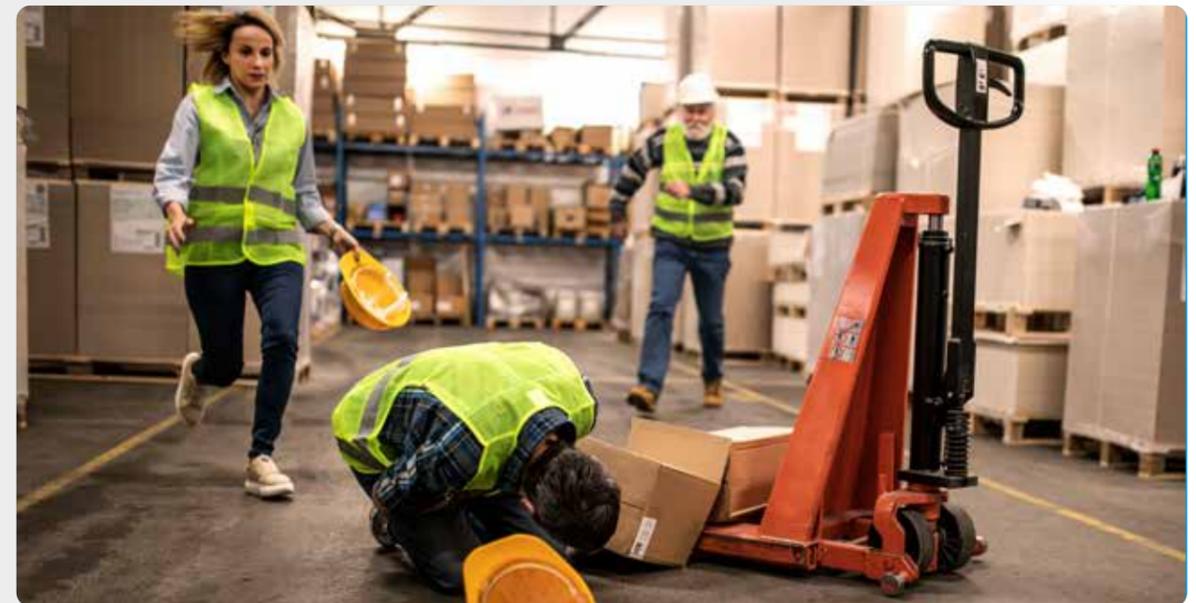


Employer liability claims are plummeting despite a huge rise in work-related injuries and illness

Up 37%
work-related injuries since 2018/19

Down 51%
employer liability claims since 2018/19

5%
Of those injured at work made a claim in 2021/22



Pillar 4 Drive excellence in the PI sector

APIL is a diverse community of PI lawyers committed to injured people. We want our members to be recognised as providing the very best in legal representation for needlessly injured people; and we seek to attract a range of members at different stages of their lives and professional development. We aim to provide a growing and increasingly diverse community where members can thrive through networking, engagement and the very best training.

3,168 members

923 accredited members

As we gradually emerged from the pandemic during the first few months of the year, we continued to focus on our key aims under Pillar 4 of the strategic plan: to grow our membership and supporter base; build on our delivery of market-leading training; ensure high standards in legal representation; and promote and develop our accreditation programme.



Grow our membership and support base

Membership and accreditation

In 2022 we built on our plans for growth in 2023, laying solid foundations to enable APIL to bring together the whole personal injury sector.

We widened the associate membership category to enable inclusivity. More professions, such as rehabilitation services providers and accountants, can now join APIL as associate members; the only exclusions being defendant lawyers and defendant insurers.

We undertook a full review of membership categories, aimed at developing a new simplified structure to encourage membership and guide potential members when choosing which category to join. In

December, a recommendation was made to the executive committee that the current nine categories be reduced to four. The benefits of membership for each category were reviewed, and proposed new declarations put forward. All were agreed, and will be presented to members by special resolution at the AGM in May 2023 which, if approved, will take effect from January 2024.

Promotions ran with 15, 12, 9 and 6-month membership offers throughout 2022. We continued to provide bulk offers for firms paying for multiple memberships. By the end of 2022, our membership total had been maintained and we had reached 3,168 members.

502 expert witnesses

Experts

Expert database enrolments have also been maintained, achieving a total of 502 experts; comprising 252 standard and 250 enhanced expert listings, the latter displaying more information about the expert including their photograph or logo.

Expert witnesses are also encouraged to become associate members. This increases our strength in numbers and also increases diversity, with a multitude of professions representing APIL and being involved in our work.

A printed experts and rehabilitation services directory was circulated to members in September.

Pillar 4 Drive excellence in the PI sector

New member initiatives and benefits

Communications

Feedback from the membership engagement panel resulted in the development of three newly designed communication channels for members:

- **Insight** – published quarterly, including invaluable research of our membership and the wider PI sector
- **News** – weekly update on campaign, practice and policy activity
- **Events bulletin** – monthly roundup of what is coming up in the next two months

All three publications have a fresh new format, are mobile friendly, and less text heavy - making them easier to read through a snapshot of information.



APIL's flagship magazine PI Focus is now 64 pages, perfect-bound, with a vibrant, high-impact, modern look



PI Focus digital edition

Relaunched on 1 September, APIL's flagship magazine is now 64 pages, perfect-bound, with a vibrant, high-impact, modern look.

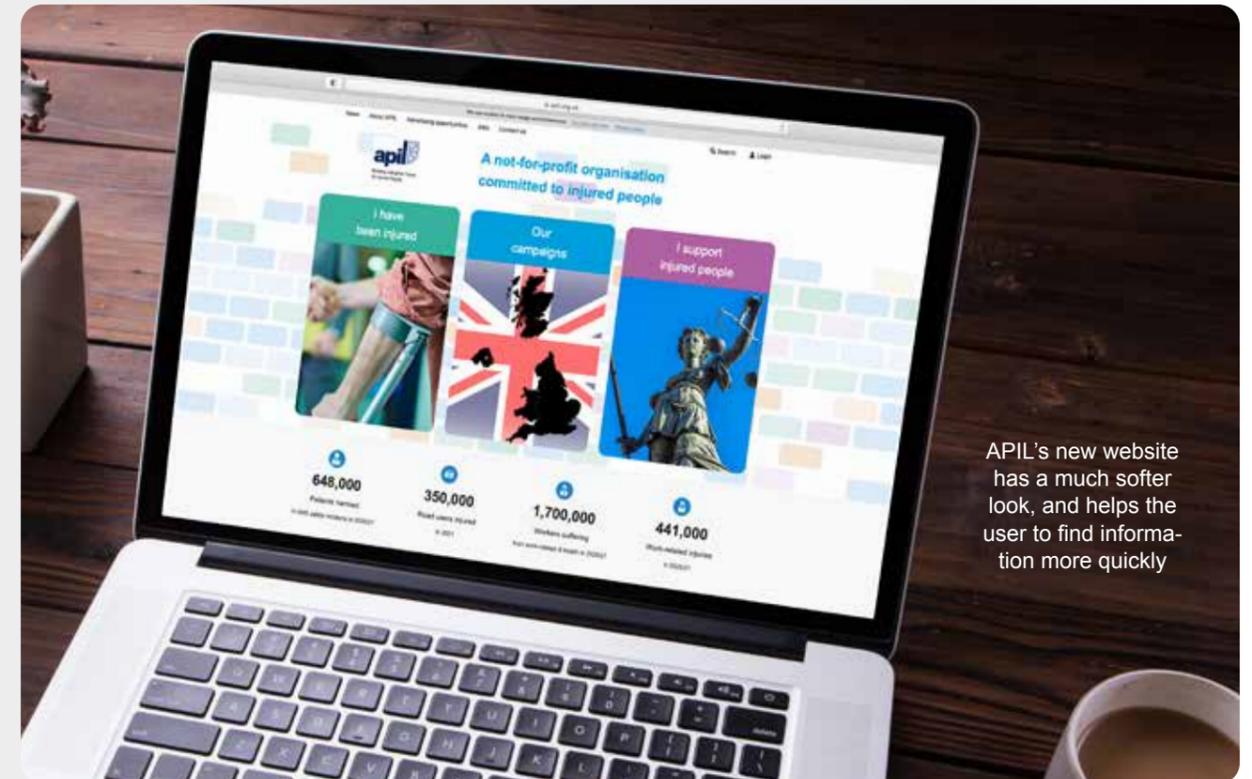
PI Focus is also available in digital format with interactive page-turn technology and click-through advertising opportunities. This digital edition is available through the "Publications" section of the members-only area of the website.

The new-look, bi-monthly magazine appeals to an even broader cross-section of the personal injury sector, while developing opportunities for our contributors and valued advertisers.

"What absolute nuggets of helpful information you put in PI Focus."

"I absolutely love the new layout and design of the PI Focus magazine... the articles are interesting and relevant."

"The new look of the magazine is brilliant; it is vibrant and colourful and eye catching. It makes me want to pick it up and read it."



APIL's new website has a much softer look, and helps the user to find information more quickly

New website

Light, bright and easy to navigate, APIL's new website focuses on our work for injured people. It has a much softer look, and helps the user to find information more quickly. With three eye-catching buttons at the top of the homepage, the website has been transformed into a much more tailored experience for injured people, and also for members looking for services and information, and for anyone wishing to find out more about our campaigns.

With more extensive use of online video across the website, core messages are conveyed more succinctly and people are encouraged to engage more with us; and hopefully join or remain members. As an ongoing process, we are encouraging everyone to take a look and let us know what they think so that continued improvements can be made and new features developed.

13,395
expert witness searches

134,255
website visitors

Pillar 4 Drive excellence in the PI sector

Mentoring

In August we launched the APIL Mentoring Hub, which is a new, exciting membership benefit aimed at encouraging communication and sharing information. The Mentoring Hub is a cloud-based system accessed via the APIL website, at no cost to APIL members.

During the mentoring process, the mentor shares their personal skills, knowledge and experience with the mentee to enable them to explore their personal and professional development. It is a two-way process in which the mentor and mentee work together to set and achieve predetermined goals and objectives.

We believe in the powerful impact mentoring can have on an individual's professional growth. Everyone has something to give, and everyone has something to learn. Our aim is to enable members to reach their full potential through the APIL Mentoring Hub.



Jobs Board

APIL now offers an updated and cost-effective recruitment and hiring solution through its redesigned Jobs Board, in partnership with Daniel Lewis Law. Clients can choose from two service levels.

At level 1 (£100+VAT), the job will be hosted on the APIL website for three weeks. At level 2 (£300+VAT), the job will be hosted on the APIL website for three calendar months and will regularly feature on the Law Society Gazette Jobs website, Daniel Lewis Law Website and APIL social media channels.

Both service levels represent value for money and early financial indicators support this. Jobs Board financial predictions now feature within the APIL financial plan.

Future Leaders Community

Our new APIL Future Leaders Community was formed on 14 September 2022, aimed at bringing together early to mid-career members across a variety of firms. Its remit is to look at the future challenges that the PI sector will be facing in 2032 and beyond.

A Steering Group has been formed and a chair appointed. The Steering Group is currently focusing on three key issues:

- Access to justice
- Access to the profession
- The role of AI and technology

The group's findings will form the basis of a report and a conference on the legal landscape, to be delivered during December 2023.



Research insights

As part of a new partnership with leading market experts IRN, we produced a new research report on the personal injury and clinical negligence markets. The report, exclusively available to APIL members, will be updated annually.

Members now have access to discounts for bespoke research provided by Spinnaker, a leading consultancy which provides research-driven insight and strategic recommendations to the legal sector. IRN's range of detailed research reports on the legal services sector are also now available to members at a 15% discount.

Engagement panel

APIL's engagement panel continued to provide their views about APIL. These contributions have provided invaluable insight into how APIL can better meet members' needs.

Over the past year, the views of panel members have been key in shaping our plans to introduce new services for APIL members, including a mentoring scheme and awards programme.

Thank you to all engagement panel members for their time and contributions!

Diversity

Throughout the year, members took part in APIL's diversity data collection exercise. Over half of members have now provided their data, which will be key to helping APIL measure its progress in becoming a more diverse, representative, and open association.

Thank you to all those members who have provided their data.

Code of conduct

APIL's code of conduct is regularly reviewed by the Secretary and APIL's legal affairs team. We take member breaches of the APIL Code of Conduct very seriously and each member's case is assessed on a case-by-case basis, initially by APIL's Secretary.

APIL investigated four complaints about members and former members this year. In three of these, following investigation, no action was taken by APIL either because the complaint related to a firm rather than an individual; or the individual in question was not an APIL member at the time of the alleged breach. The fourth complaint was bought to APIL's attention by the SRA and related to an individual who was no longer an APIL member, but had been a member at the relevant time. Due to the serious nature of this breach, the member in question was advised that consideration would be made by the board regarding any renewal notification received within the next 10 years.

Pillar 4 Drive excellence in the PI sector

Promote and develop our accreditation programme

By the end of the year, our accreditation levels stood at 923 accredited members, representing 31.48% of the eligible membership.

An online procedure for new and renewing corporate and in-house accreditation was developed and introduced to facilitate application for firms. Firms are also now offered the option to pay for two years rather than doing so annually, saving on admin time.

Maintaining accreditation and monitoring

To maintain accreditation, members revalidated throughout the year, while also providing evidence of having completed their APIL CPD. In accordance with the results from the engagement panel and membership requests, we continued to allow members to accrue all of their CPD hours through virtual learning. In addition, 126 events were accredited by APIL and delivered by other providers, providing accredited members with a wide choice of ways to fulfil the mandatory requirement.

Monitoring visits to firms

Pre-pandemic, our corporate monitoring entailed a visit to the accredited firm. A new process was developed to enable corporate monitoring to be carried out virtually while Covid restrictions were in place. This is now being offered as a choice to the firm depending on their preference.

Six visits / meetings took place during the latter part of 2022. Ten had been confirmed but due to train strikes, illness, and changes in the practice, four were postponed. A full plan was put in place in preparation for 2023. The purpose of the procedure is to ensure that firms are complying with the corporate criteria. If not, recommendations may be put in place by the APIL assessor which must be rectified within a particular timeframe. If there is no evidence provided, or the firm has not been complying and / or is unable to comply, accreditation is revoked.

Public enquiries

An average of around 200 enquiries per month were received from members of the public and passed on to accredited members. These were analysed by location, specialist area, source, and referred accredited member. Members and their colleagues are encouraged to get accredited, particularly in areas where there are few accredited members, so that all members can benefit from the service if they wish.

Build our delivery of market-leading training

In line with the strategic plan, members were kept informed of emerging trends in personal injury through a variety of different training events – conferences, webinars, courses and meetings – with 158 events in total.

- 2 residential conferences
- 4 one-day conferences
- 18 training courses
- 85 webinars
- 15 courses in-house
- 34 group meetings
- 158 events

Membership behaviour started to change during the second half of the year. Pre-pandemic, all of our training courses and conferences were running as in-person events. Only webinars ran online, with recordings provided. In 2021 virtual events continued, with just three conferences being introduced as hybrid events in the Autumn.

In 2022, as we came out of the pandemic, a programme of hybrid events was delivered with members being offered the choice of actually attending at the venue, or logging in digitally to a live-streamed event. Delegates now have an expectation



that APIL events, particularly conferences, will be delivered as hybrid events; and it is anticipated that that expectation will continue for the foreseeable future.

We therefore refined our processes, introduced discounts for bulk purchases, and continued to develop the APIL app. Feedback from our events has been extremely positive, establishing APIL as the market leader of personal injury training:

“I thought the hybrid approach to this year’s conference was excellent and would welcome the conference being held in the same way in future.”

“You are my preferred provider for in-person conferences and webinars.”

Pillar 4 Drive excellence in the PI sector

Residential conferences

Two residential conferences were developed and delivered in 2022. Both were held at the Celtic Manor Resort due to contracts being carried over from the two previous years:

Advanced brain and spinal cord injury conference 2022

18 – 20 May (Weds to Fri)

Forensic Collision Investigation and Reconstruction Ltd (FCIR) kindly took on principal sponsorship of this conference, which was geared towards specialists in running catastrophic injury cases. Three sessions in particular received exceptional feedback:

- Dr David Wilson - The role of imaging in the investigation of patients suspected to have Cauda Equina Compression Syndrome
- Rosie Mayes – Life after injury
- Shahram Sharghy – Legal update

Of the 126 delegates (119 in 2019), 83 attended in-person (66%) and 43 virtually (34%). There were also 31 speakers at the event. We are grateful to all of our sponsors, 9 Gough Chambers, CCMS Ltd, HCML and FCIR for their support of the event, along with a further 36 exhibiting companies. Total numbers attending at the venue reached 203.



Rosie Mayes

Annual clinical negligence conference 2022

20 – 22 September (Tues to Thurs)

Similar to the brain and spinal cord injury conference, 71% (169) of delegates attended in person and 29% (68) online, with 40 exhibitors and sponsors. Pre-pandemic, 214 delegates attended in 2019, resulting in an increase of more than 10%.

Our special thanks go to principal sponsor, 42 Bedford Row – and additional sponsors Evelyn Partners, Pennington Manches Cooper and Serjeants Inn Chambers. With 40 exhibiting companies and 20 speakers, total in-person attendees reached 276.

The best received sessions were:

- Dr Carole Gavin - Misdiagnosis in A&E
- Jayaratnam Jayamohan - Paediatric and adult spinal injuries
- John Goodden – Neurosurgery

Feedback: Advanced brain and spinal cord injury conference

“Wow... impressive, professional and engaging – I've learnt so much – thank you!”

“All speakers and topics were interesting and engaging. Very relevant subject matter.”

“A really good conference to attend.”

“Excellent variety of programmes across all levels – highly rated.”

Feedback: Annual clinical negligence conference

“Excellent programme and combination of speakers.”

“The conference is more than training. It is about meeting people and sharing information. This is what makes this event so successful.”

“Very enjoyable overall – great venue, great food and conference very well organised.”

“Very impressive event. Professional and well delivered.”

Event	Date	Location	In-person	Virtual	Total	Additional info
Abuse conference	23 June	Fully virtual	N/A	71	71	Changed to virtual at last minute, due to rail strike “Thank you for such an informative event which was extremely relevant for the work I will be doing.”
Asbestos conference	19 October	Ambassadors Hotel, London and virtual	58 (39%)	91 (61%)	149	Highest ever audience. Welcomed an additional 15 in-person attendees compared to 2021 (only 43 in-person in 2021). “For asbestos litigation – [APIL is] the best available”
Military claims conference	3 November	Fully virtual	N/A	51	51	Changed to virtual at last minute, due to rail strike.
Accidents and illnesses abroad conference	1 December	Marriott Marble Arch Hotel, London	53 (76%)	17 (24%)	70	Huge shift in in-person attendance (only 27 in-person attendees in 2021 due to Omicron). Highest ever number of international delegates: 20 overseas delegates, with 18 of these attending in-person. Residential event planned for 2023. “Fantastic, well-pitched programme. Excellent presentations. Panel was fantastic.” “Excellent speakers all round. Very clear and knowledgeable.”

Delegates now have an expectation that APIL events, particularly conferences, will be delivered as hybrid events

Pillar 4 Drive excellence in the PI sector

Training courses

In 2022, 18 courses were delivered, comprising 12 live virtual events (including one course for expert witnesses), four in-person only, and two hybrid.

Our personal injury updates ran in London and Manchester in the spring and autumn, along with two tailored updates for lawyers in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

We ran a new course on public speaking geared towards less experienced lawyers, along with four modules covering an introduction to personal injury for students and younger fee-earners. A total of 707 delegates attended across all training events, with 88 in-person. In-person attendance at training courses is far less than at our conferences, which provide greater opportunities for networking.

Our range of training also continued to run, from the fundamentals through to intermediate and advanced in particular specialist areas.

Fundamentals of running an asbestos claim (virtual):

“Excellent overview for someone wishing to move to a new area.”

“I found this course very useful. Lots of information provided over the course of the day. Very well presented. I will definitely be using the information in my day-to-day work.”

Brain injury (virtual):

“Both speakers were clearly knowledgeable in this area and were able to bring good working examples to the presentation.”

“This is one of the best courses that I have attended. Extremely practical advice illustrated with informative first-hand examples from both of the speakers.”

PI update (hybrid):

“Great to be back in person. Being able to interact with the speakers. In person makes the content more memorable.”

“The online presentation suits me well - based in Cornwall! Also, the increased facilities on the Zoom make it better all round.”

“In person training is best and preferred, although online is convenient.”

PI update 2022 (England/Wales)

Event	In-person	Virtual	Total Delegates
PI update: Spring 2022	27 (16%)	141 (84%)	168
PI update: Autumn 2022	41 (29%)	99 (71%)	140

Anatomy for PI lawyers (virtual):

“One of the best most informative and interesting courses I recall ever being on. First class. Thanks.”

“The speakers were excellent at explaining complex concepts in an understandable way.”

Public speaking for young lawyers:

“I feel I’ve learnt a lot and would recommend this course to anyone.”

Clinical negligence courses:

“John is always incredibly informative and delivers the material in a manner that Kings Counsel would be proud of.”

“Very comprehensive material provided and useful for future reference.”

Legal training for expert witnesses:

“Both very good and informative speakers.”

Client care:

“I thought the content was very good. Client care can be a dry subject but it was covered really well and was very thought invoking. It was really helpful to have practical examples and tips. The supporting materials particularly useful.”

Webinars and in-house training

A total of 79 commercial and six free webinars ran in 2022. The most popular webinar by far covered *Issuing proceedings in the County Court: The new digital system, the demise of paper and avoiding negligence claims and other pitfalls*. This was followed up by a two-hour Q&A session with Brett Dixon and John McQuater, which was equally as popular.

The former quarterly review was rebranded as APIL Headline News and reformatted to include latest campaign news and hot topics over the previous months. Four sessions were delivered, along with three *Ask the EC* meetings where members are invited to pose questions to selected EC panellists on particular areas of PI.

Meanwhile 15 personal injury or clinical negligence updates were delivered in-house either virtually or at various firms.

Elections

The positions of coordinator and secretary for the groups were reviewed. As the role of secretary no longer requires minute-taking with many meetings being held virtually and recorded for attendees, the position of secretary was removed. It was agreed that each group should have two coordinators working together to develop and present meetings, in the hope of easing the workload on one coordinator.

A new maximum period of three terms of two years was introduced to entice more members to come forward and encourage diversity.

The group meetings continued to grow in popularity throughout 2022

APIL groups

There were 34 meetings of APIL’s regional, membership, and special interest groups, either held virtually or hybrid. The brain injury special interest group (SIG) held seven meetings. The top attendances were the brain injury SIG with 179 registrations and the damages SIG hitting 176 bookings.

The group meetings continued to grow in popularity throughout 2022. During the autumn, four of the 13 meetings arranged were held in-person. This feedback has been very positive with members enjoying the networking opportunities and the more personal, informal nature of such meetings, compared with the virtual offering. More in-person meetings are already in the schedule for 2023.



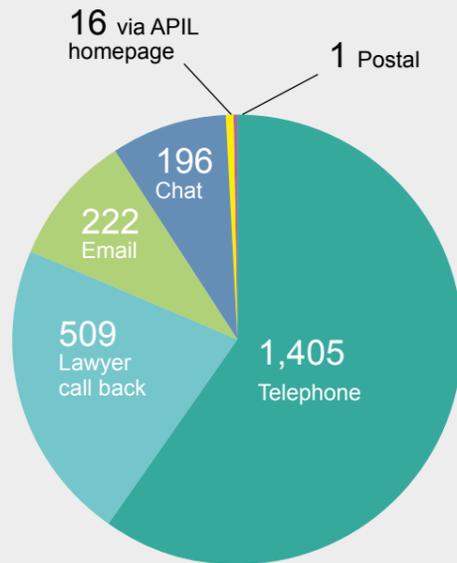
Cyber security

Our IT security has been further improved by investing in a ‘next generation’ firewall. Remote access to the network now requires multi-factor authentication for all staff, requiring the user to obtain a time-based code from a mobile authentication app.

Pillar 4 Drive excellence in the PI sector

Statistics

Public enquiries



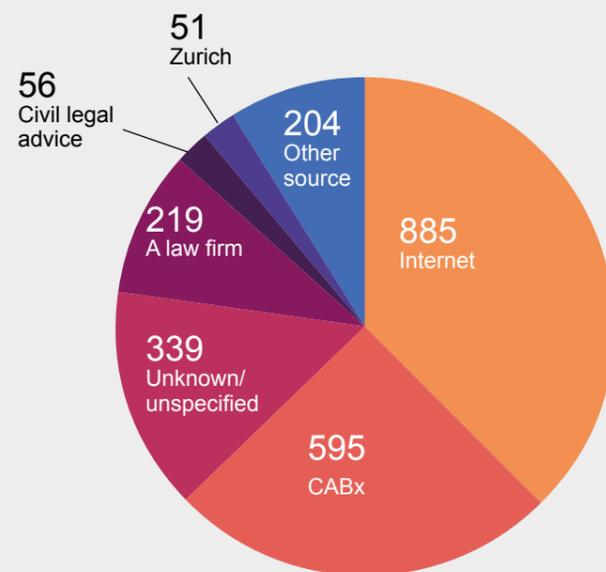
2,349 enquiries in 2022

21% more than in 2021

Members instructed at least 7% of enquiries

Source of enquiries

2,349 total enquiries



Top 10 injury lawyer searches

Type of claim	Searches
Road accident/whiplash	3,904
Accident at work	2,040
Asbestos & mesothelioma	2,024
Clinical negligence	1,443
Trip/slip	1,145
Head/brain injury	1,115
Sports injury	855
Criminal injury	787
Public liability	671
Back injury	567

Membership at 31 December 2022

Legal Practitioners	2,551
Legal Practitioners - non practising	18
Honorary life members	24
Barristers/Advocates (practitioners)	93
Barrister - category	25
Junior Barrister	10
Paralegals	276
Students	2
eMembers	8
Academics	7
Overseas	53
Associate member	95
Associate charity member	4
Lay EC member	2
Total members	3,168*

411 New members for 2022

*Contains 503 complimentary memberships which include eMembers and Honorary members. Numbers may vary from accounts, as members may have retired or left their firm and we are awaiting new details.

Pillar 4 Drive excellence in the PI sector

We widened the associate membership category to enable inclusivity

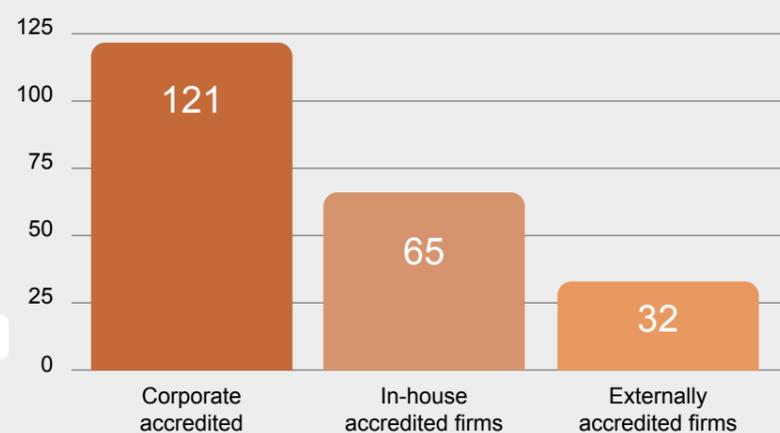
Expert witnesses are also encouraged to become associate members

Accreditation figures at 31 December 2022

	Number	Emeritus
Litigator	127	-
Senior Litigator	676	12
Fellow	105	11
Senior Fellow	10	4
Senior Counsel	5	0
Junior Counsel	0	0
Total	923	27

	Specialist	Assessor
Brain injury	69	25
Clinical negligence	58	18
Spinal cord injury	20	9
Occupational disease	83	21
Asbestos disease	84	22
Acc. & illnesses abroad	10	7
Fatal accidents	17	9
Military injury	7	6
Totals	348	117

Accredited firms



Attendance at Executive Committee meetings 2022

Executive Committee Members	Total meetings attended (out of 3)
John McQuater ^a Atherton Godfrey, Doncaster	3/3
Jonathan Scarsbrook Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield	3/3
Suzanne Trask ^d Bolt Burdon Kemp, London	3/3
Brett Dixon Brett Dixon Training, Burnley	3/3
Jill Greenfield ^b FieldFisher, London	3/3
Gordon Dalyell Digby Brown, Edinburgh	2/3
Sam Elsby Dean Wilson LLP	1/1
Richard Baker 7 Bedford Row, London	0/3
Richard Barr ^h Norwich	1/1
Musa Garba ^g Lay EC Member	2/2
Stephen Glynn ^e Deka Chambers	2/2
Guy Forster Irwin Mitchell, Cambridge	3/3
Kim Harrison Slater & Gordon, Manchester	3/3
Michael Imperato Watkins & Gunn, Cardiff	2/3
Victoria LeBrec ^f Lay EC Member	3/3
Oonagh McClure Thompsons, Belfast	2/3
Neil McKinley ^c JMP Solicitors, Grantham	3/3
Pauline Roberts NewLaw, Cardiff	3/3
Leticia Williams Hodge Jones Allen, London	2/3
Suzanne White Leigh Day, London	2/3

- a. Elected as President at AGM 2022
- b. Re-elected as Treasurer at AGM 2022
- c. Post of Immediate Past President started at AGM 2022
- d. Elected as Vice President AGM 2022
- e. Elected at AGM 2022
- f. Joined EC March 2022 Lay EC member
- g. Joined EC June 2022 Lay EC member
- h. Not re-elected at AGM 2022

Financial Report

2022 was always going to be a challenging year as we all adjusted to life post pandemic; and this was reflected in our budget, with a small deficit planned for. However, thanks to the continuing hard work of APIL staff, executive committee members, trainers and other volunteers, we ended the year with a break even position.

Turnover for the association rose by £220,517 (12%).

Our training activities remain mostly online with some hybrid events throughout the year. Both residential conferences were held in person, with the option of attending virtually.

Membership income improved on the previous year by £25,396 (3.7%). Membership subscriptions account for 38% of APIL's income, followed by training activities at 31% and conferences at 24%.

The direct costs of providing APIL's activities rose by £147,291, a 33% increase on the previous year. This was mostly due to the venue costs of holding both conferences in person, which were absent in the previous two years.

Due to external factors outside of APIL's control, we saw rising overheads over the course of the year. As usual, we kept a tight control over these. They were £16,418, 3.5% higher than 2021. We expect these costs to continue rising in 2023 and beyond.

The operational surplus, before bank interest and capital expenditure, stands at £41,170, down by just £878 on the previous year.



JILL GREENFIELD
Treasurer

From the operational surplus, APIL spent £17,250 on interventions, including *Harrison v Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust*.

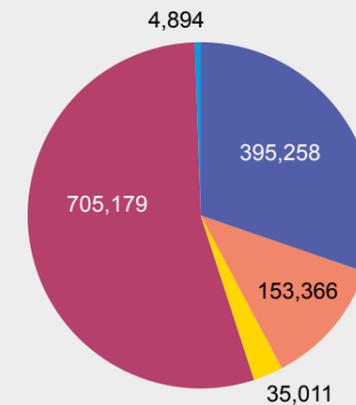
A total of £24,915 was spent towards achieving the association's strategic aims, including the Rebuilding Shattered Lives campaign and the redesign of our PI Focus magazine.

At the end of 2022, APIL's reserves, which consist of property, assets and cash, stand at £1,077,199. Within this, we have set aside an operational reserve fund equal to three months' worth of operational costs. We also have designated funds for JR / intervention and strategy spends.

Thanks to the continuing hard work of APIL staff, executive committee members, trainers and other volunteers, we ended the year with a break even position

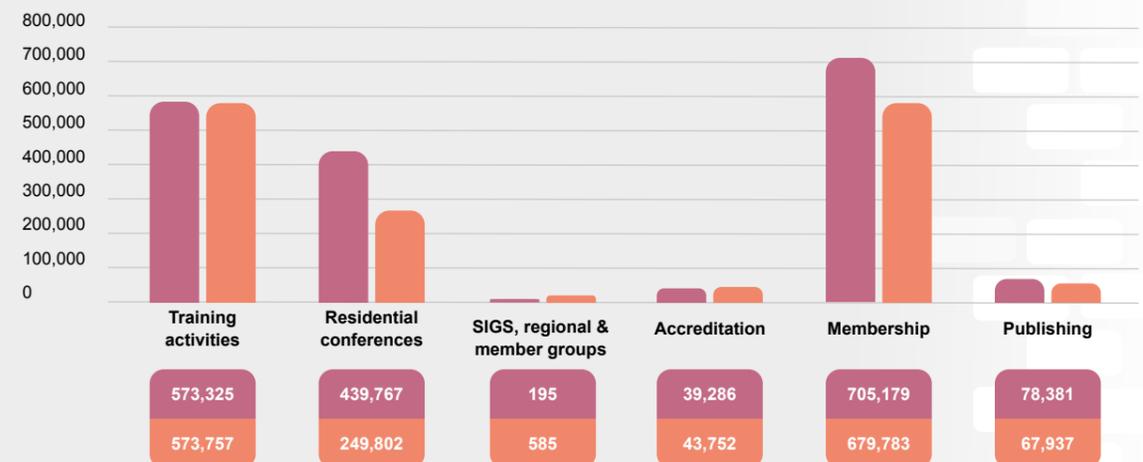
2022 operational contribution

- Training activities
- Residential conferences
- Accreditation
- Membership
- Residential conferences
- Publishing



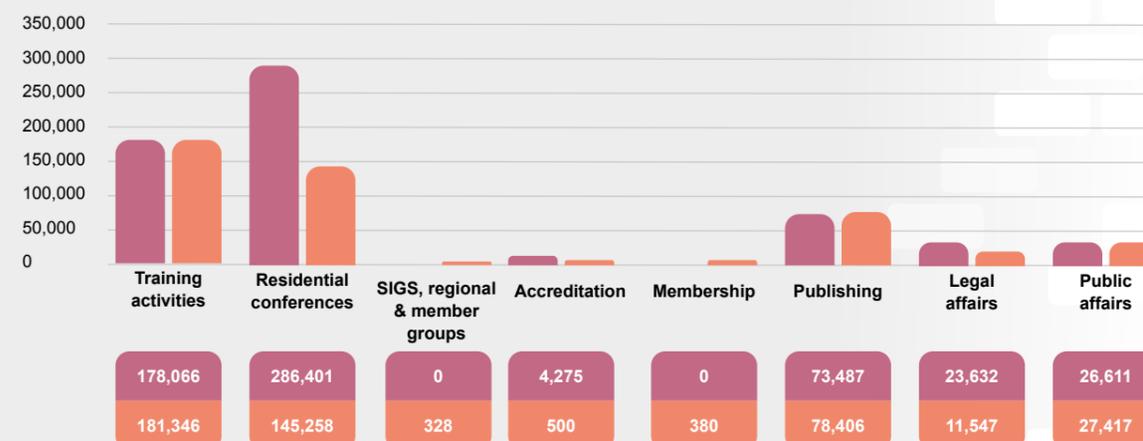
Income sources

2022 2021



Expenditure

2022 2021



Directors' report

For the year ended 31 December 2022

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the company continued to be that of campaigning for improvements in personal injury law on behalf of the injured people; to promote, encourage and develop expertise in the practice of personal injury law by education and the exchange of information and knowledge.

Directors

The directors who held office during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

B Dixon	O M McClure
R Baker	N C McKinley
G Dalyell	J McQuater
G Forster	P J Roberts
M Garba (appointed 11.05.22)	J Scarsbrook
S Glynn	S J Trask
J Greenfield	S White
K L Harrison	L A Williams
J M Imperato	R E Barr (resigned on 11.05.22)
V Lebec (appointed 7.01.22)	S Elsby (resigned on 11.05.22)

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Seagrave French LLP be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Statement of disclosure to auditor

So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware. Additionally, the directors individually have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Small companies exemption

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

On behalf of the board

J McQuater

J McQuater
Director

22 March 2023

Directors' responsibilities statement

For the year ended 31 December 2022

The directors are responsible for preparing the annual 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 surplus or deficit 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 judgements and accounting 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.

Independent auditor's report

To the members of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Association Of Personal Injury Lawyers (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independent auditor's report

To the members of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which 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 in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report

Responsibilities of directors

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, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the directors, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of systems and ensuring these systems operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the company by discussions with directors and by updating our understanding of the sectors in which the company operates.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the company including the Companies Act 2006 and UK Tax legislation.

Other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to their ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty include anti-bribery legislation, health and safety legislation and employment law.

We identified revenue recognition to be the area most susceptible to the risk of material misstatement due to a fraud and non-compliance.

Audit response to risks identified.

We consider the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statements items including a review of financial statement disclosures.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We assessed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness or journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors-responsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Jason Seagrave ACCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Seagrave French LLP

Statutory Auditor

1 Poplars Court
Lenton Lane
Nottingham
NG7 2RR

Financial Statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 22 March 2023 and are signed on its behalf by:

J Greenfield

J Greenfield
Director

Company Registration
No. 2889757

Income and expenditure account For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Income	1,836,132	1,615,614
Cost of sales	(592,472)	(445,182)
Gross surplus	1,243,660	1,170,432
Administrative expenses	(1,244,656)	(1,177,594)
Operating deficit	(996)	(7,162)
Interest receivable and similar income	1,003	114
Interest payable and similar expenses	-	(17)
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation	7	(7,065)
Tax on surplus/(deficit)	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	7	(7,065)

The income and expenditure account has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

Balance sheet As at 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	5		446,116		450,658
Current assets					
Debtors	6	217,659		95,658	
Cash at bank and in hand		898,315		877,013	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	1,115,974		972,671	
		(497,893)		(359,139)	
Net current assets			618,081		613,532
Net assets			1,064,197		1,064,190
Reserves					
Income and expenditure account			1,064,197		1,064,190
Members' funds			1,064,197		1,064,190

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

1 Accounting policies

Company information

Association Of Personal Injury Lawyers is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Unit 3 Alder Court, Rennie Hogg Road, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, England, NG2 1RX.

1.1 Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 as applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. The disclosure requirements of section 1A of FRS 102 have been applied other than where additional disclosure is required to show a true and fair view.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Income and expenditure

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 2023 to 31 March 2023.

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.

Expenses are included in the financial statements as they become receivable or due.

Expenses include VAT where applicable as the company cannot reclaim it.

1.3 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings 2% on cost

Plant and equipment 20% on cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is credited or charged to surplus or deficit.

1.4 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting period end date, the company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset (or cash-generating unit) is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or cash-generating unit) in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

1.5 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.6 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.7 Taxation

The company is exempt from corporation tax, it being a company not carrying on a business for the purposes of making a profit.

1.8 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.9 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.10 Foreign exchange

Transactions in currencies other than pounds sterling are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the transactions. At each reporting end date, monetary assets and liabilities that are denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing on the reporting end date. Gains and losses arising on translation in the period are included in profit or loss.

Notes to the financial statements

2 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Employees

The average monthly number of persons (including directors) employed by the company during the year was:

2022
25
employees

2021
25
employees

4 Membership subscriptions

	2022	2021	2022	2021
	No	No	£	£
Practitioner members	2,464	2,446	585,511	554,422
Student members	5	5	75	280
Paralegal members	79	75	9,980	8,905
Academic members	7	5	800	550
Overseas members	53	57	6,187	6,110
Associate members	77	82	12,130	11,085
Barrister	33	36	6,550	6,390
Other member	5	5	1,180	1,105
Complimentary members	533	495		
Total	3,256	3,206	622,413	588,847
Add deferred income brought forward			146,737	154,013
Less deferred income carried forward			(153,940)	(146,737)
			615,210	596,123
Corporate accreditation income received in the year			42,305	49,257
Add deferred income brought forward			21,169	15,663
Less deferred income carried forward			(24,188)	(21,169)
			39,286	43,751
Total			654,496	639,874

5 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Plant and machinery etc	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 January 2022	577,135	54,561	631,696
Additions		11,570	11,570
At 31 December 2022	577,135	66,131	643,266
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 January 2022	138,513	42,525	181,038
Depreciation charged in the year	11,543	4,569	16,112
At 31 December 2022	150,056	47,094	197,150
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2022	427,079	19,037	446,116
At 31 December 2021	438,622	12,036	450,658

6 Debtors

	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	173,041	64,228
Other debtors	44,618	31,430
	217,659	95,658

Notes to the financial statements

7 Creditors

	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year	£	£
Trade creditors:	100,963	38,892
Taxation and social security	25,278	36,386
Other creditors	371,652	283,861
	497,893	359,139

8 Members' liability

The company is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding £1.

9 Related party transactions

During the year the following amounts have been paid to directors either directly or to companies controlled by them. All transactions are at arm's length and are on normal commercial terms.

	2022	2021
Training Fees:	£	£
J McQuater	53,290	54,072
B Dixon	34,385	39,175
R Baker	860	1,720
S Elsby	-	3,190

Detailed trading and income and expenditure account

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022		2021	
Income	£	£	£	£
Membership and Accreditation		744,464		723,561
Conference, SIGS and regional meetings		439,962		250,387
Training events		573,325		573,756
Publishing		78,381		67,910
		1,836,132		1,615,614

Cost of sales

Purchases and other direct costs				
Membership	4,275		880	
Conference	286,401		145,586	
Training events	178,066		181,345	
Legal affairs and research	23,632		11,547	
Publishing	73,487		78,407	
Public affairs	26,611		27,417	
Total purchases and other direct costs	592,472		445,182	
Total cost of sales		(592,472)		(445,182)
Gross surplus	67.73%	1,243,660	72.45%	1,170,432

Notes to the financial statements

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Administrative expenses				
Wages and salaries	865,595		807,103	
Social security costs	79,047		71,569	
Staff training	4,781		2,711	
Staff pension costs defined contribution	38,508		38,495	
Property costs	57,970		47,279	
Insurance	8,638		7,561	
Travelling expenses	3,037		190	
Legal and professional fees	18,670		13,029	
Audit fees	4,997		4,997	
Bank charges	1,379		1,515	
Credit card charges	16,214		14,753	
Bad and doubtful debts	2,143		1,323	
Printing and stationery	24,301		23,669	
Telecommunications	5,921		25,040	
Other costs	46,647		46,171	
Executive committee	11,587		8,327	
IT costs	21,859		20,665	
Depreciation	16,112		16,774	
Intervention/JR fund	17,250		26,423	
		(1,244,656)		(1,177,594)
Operating deficit		(996)		(7,162)
Interest receivable and similar income				
Bank interest received	1,003		114	
		1,003		114
Interest payable and similar expenses				
Mortgage interest		-		(17)
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation	-	7	0.44%	(7,065)





Building a Brighter Future
for Injured People

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