



2013

Contents



President's Report / 03



Secretary's Report / 04



Chief Executive's Report / 05



Annual Review / 06



Financial Report / 16



Report of the Executive Committee / 18



Independent Auditor's Report / 20



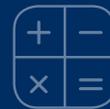
Financial Statements / 21



APIL Officers & Executive Committee Members / 26

How to use this document

Clicking on any of the keylined icons at the top of each section page takes you directly to that page. The icon in full colour indicates the page you are currently viewing (see below).



Back to Contents



Clicking on the 'Back to Contents' icon (see left) at the bottom of each page brings you back to this page. From here you can navigate, by clicking on the relevant icons, to any of the pages shown under the contents heading.



The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

Believes passionately that victims deserve committed, well trained lawyers to support their fight for justice;

Understands that injured people can often be the most vulnerable in society and need help;

Campaigns to make a tangible difference to the lives of injured people and society as a whole;

Reassures victims and acts fairly with honesty and integrity;

Drives up standards in personal injury law and process, encouraging innovation and efficiency;

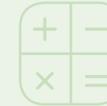
Is 'not for profit' and does not seek to make money out of the misfortune of injured people;

Treats law as a rewarding vocation, not a job, and encourages its members to thrive in their work.

Objectives

1. To promote full and just compensation for all types of personal injury
2. To promote and develop expertise in the practice of personal injury law
3. To promote wider redress for personal injury in the legal system
4. To campaign for improvements in personal injury law
5. To promote safety and alert the public to hazards wherever they arise
6. To provide a communication network for members.





President's Report



To quote the Greek poet, Euripides – “The good and the wise lead quiet lives”. However else it might be described, the life of a personal injury lawyer has been anything but quiet over the past year. As our Chief Executive’s report starkly illustrates, it has been a period of unprecedented change.

For many years, compensation for personal injury has been falling in real terms. Recognising this, Sir Rupert Jackson recommended a ten per cent increase which came into effect in April. However, an increase in general damages, whilst welcome, was illusory with the additional costs of success fees and ATE premiums. The net result is that claimants will receive less compensation than before. APIL has always believed in the principle of full compensation and we will continue to closely monitor the impact of the funding and procedural changes on recovery of damages.

We have made our influence count during this unsettled period. Our evidence and representations to the Transport Select Committee were strongly reflected in its Inquiry report – “Costs of Motor Insurance: Whiplash”. The report emphasised the need for any reforms to protect access to justice for the overwhelming majority of genuine claimants and – as was long overdue – cast the spotlight on insurers’ own dysfunctional practices. In turn, the Committee’s recommendations were accepted by the Government, who announced a moratorium on any increase to the Small Claims Track threshold. We will work constructively with the Government and other stakeholders to improve the quality medico-legal reporting and to discourage fraud, whilst steadfastly standing up for the rights of injured people.

Likewise, our work in connection with the Mesothelioma Act 2014, has improved the plight of diffuse mesothelioma sufferers who are unable to trace a solvent employer or insurer. The resulting scheme could have gone further, falling short of providing full compensation and neglecting altogether the many workers who die from industrial diseases other than mesothelioma, but it does represent a positive start. We will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the scheme, whilst pushing for improved redress elsewhere.

We will work constructively with the Government and other stakeholders to improve the quality medico-legal reporting and to discourage fraud, whilst steadfastly standing up for the rights of injured people.

I am reassured that we have maintained our policy, training and accreditation activities in turbulent times. We continue to provide a strong, highly respected voice for injured people, whilst helping to develop and promote the expertise of our members. Not claiming goodness or wisdom, I warmly acknowledge the skill and dedication of the staff at the APIL office, who continue to make this possible.

Matthew Stockwell
President





Secretary's Report



In 2013 I served my seventh year on the APIL EC but my first as secretary.

It was another difficult year for those of us representing the interests of injured people. The Government delivered on much of its tort reform programme, but not without engagement and challenge from our organisation at every turn.

An unprecedented year too in terms of APIL training, and the number of courses and conferences we ran helping our members to cope with all the reforms.

Next year will be every bit as challenging to APIL and its members as the reforms take effect on our practices, but the organisation is organised and committed and will as ever rise to the challenge.

As secretary I got to observe at first hand a feature of APIL apparent from my early days on the EC, which was the sheer dedication and professionalism of the APIL team in Nottingham. They carry out much of the hidden work that makes the organisation effective, from parliamentary lobbying and consultation responses to research programmes to organising and delivering meetings and courses every week up and down the country (or as Cenric Clement Evans would remind me 'countries').

A word too about the EC. It comprises four officers and 14 additional officers, all of whom give up their time to work for APIL. That work involves eight day-long meetings a year but much of their work is carried out beyond those meetings: in working groups, attending meetings and liaising with other stakeholders, contributing to the work of the organisation.

We lost EC heavyweights Muiris Lyons (former president), Stephen Lawson (secretary) and Jane Horton, all of whom stood down at the end of their terms last April, but happily were able to welcome new EC member Bridget Collier, re-elected Gordon Dalyell and welcome back former presidents David Bott and Colin Ettinger.

Sadly Robert Webb will leave the EC this year due to ill health and we are about to lose former president Karl Tonks and long serving member Neil Sugarman at the end of their terms.

The EC is a cohesive, hard working group and we don't like to lose valued colleagues every year but the process of renewal creates energy and new ideas, so we are looking forward to some new faces following this year's EC elections. In fact to ensure the smooth running of this process, we are tabling a resolution at conference this year recommending that EC members be limited to no more than three consecutive terms.

Next year will be every bit as challenging to APIL and its members as the reforms take effect on our practices, but the organisation is organised and committed and will as ever rise to the challenge.

Stuart Kightley
Secretary





Chief Executive's Report



2013 began with fear and uncertainty about a raft of changes which were imminent. What impact would there be on access to justice for the injured person and the lawyers who represent them? We believed that it was in the interests of justice that the Government properly consulted on the changes it planned to bring in, and launched judicial review proceedings. Although the review failed, concessions made by the Ministry of Justice meant that practitioners had more time to prepare.

By April the picture was clearer, as the changes came thick and fast. In just nine months the Government delivered the following raft of changes:

- > The end of recoverability of success fees
- > The end of recoverability of ATE premiums
- > The end of legal aid for most clinical negligence cases
- > Ten per cent increase in general damages
- > The introduction of proportionality
- > The introduction of cost budgeting and cost management
- > The introduction of damages based agreements
- > The introduction of qualified one way cost shifting
- > The introduction of tough timescales and sanctions
- > The referral fee ban
- > The extension of the RTA pre-action protocol to £25,000
- > New pre-action protocols and an electronic portal for employers liability and public liability claims
- > Fixed fees in the fast track
- > Reduced fees in the RTA portal
- > Passing of the Enterprise Act, removing the ability to rely upon statutory breaches in civil health and safety claims.

Lawyers had to move quickly to refine their business models to stay profitable, competitive and still offer access to justice for injured people. APIL rolled out an extensive programme of training courses around the reforms to enable members to keep up to speed and offer the best possible service to their clients. As the changes were simultaneous it is impossible to assign cause and effect: road traffic claims have reduced in number – is this as a result of the lower fixed fee, the referral fee ban, or would it have happened anyway? The number of clinical negligence claims is rising, indicating at first glance that the removal of legal aid hasn't caused an access to justice issue, but has it? Is it the case that serious, complex cases that would have been successful before now simply don't proceed? Is the access to justice issue disguised by falling standards in our hospitals causing more injuries than ever before?

There was good news. APIL influenced a positive outcome to the small claims consultation, and after robust lobbying on APIL's part we welcomed the Government's decision not to proceed with a mesothelioma pre-action protocol which would have slowed down these difficult claims to the point where many live claimants would have died before their claims were settled. We continued to work hard alongside other organisations to campaign for an employer's liability insurance body (ELIB). Although an ELIB was not the result, the development of the untraced scheme for mesothelioma claims is another step in the right direction for mesothelioma sufferers,

We are now truly in a new era.

Deborah Evans
Chief executive





Annual Review

Parliamentary campaigns

APIL met with ministers, shadow ministers, and parliamentarians from across political parties throughout the year.

MPs and peers continued to rely on APIL for expert briefings and opinions and the association was mentioned 19 times during parliamentary debates, in ministerial statements, and in answers to parliamentary questions.

- > The year began with a letter writing campaign to members of Parliament about the Government's proposals to reduce costs in the road traffic accident portal. More than 100 APIL members volunteered to write to their MPs, which led to parliamentary questions being tabled in the House of Commons, and MPs sharing the concerns of members with the Ministry of Justice.
- > The Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill continued its way through Parliament, moving into the House of Lords at the start of the year. APIL attended high-level briefings and lobbying was robust against the Government's attempt to amend the law on civil liability resulting from a breach of health and safety. The Government was narrowly defeated in the Lords, but the clause was eventually re-introduced in the Commons.
- > The Queen's Speech at the start of the parliamentary year in May included a Bill which would establish a scheme to provide compensation to some sufferers of mesothelioma where the former employers' insurers cannot be traced. The Bill was introduced into the House of Lords soon after and had almost completed its progress through Parliament by the end of the year. Along with others, APIL argued that, while the proposed scheme was a good first step, it did not go far enough: the proposed start date was arbitrary and unfair, the level of compensation available through the scheme was not high enough, and the scope of the scheme needed to be broad enough to include other diseases. APIL's briefings on the Bill were used and quoted during the debates.
- > APIL's campaign against the insurance industry assault on victims of road traffic accidents continued in Parliament, as the Government considered raising the small claims court limit from £1,000 to £5,000. As part of the campaign, MPs joined with APIL in the press to warn against any increase in the small claims court. The issue of whiplash claims and the small claims court limit were then examined by the Transport Select Committee, and APIL provided both written and oral evidence to the committee, attacking myths related to the subject and recommending no increase to the small claims court limit. In its report, the committee told the insurance industry to get its own house in order and recommended no change to the small claims court limit at the present time. This recommendation was accepted by the Government.
- > APIL kicked off its campaign for changes in the law relating to bereavement damages, with the issue of a consumer research report to target politicians. The report revealed public support for an increase in bereavement damages, as well as more flexibility as to who can claim. The report was sent to members of the House of Commons Justice Committee, and the All Party Parliamentary Group for Legal and Constitutional Affairs, as well as justice minister Shailesh Vara. A discussion with the minister about the issues raised in the report followed.
- > APIL provided written evidence to a joint committee on the Draft Deregulation Bill, which included proposals to reform the health and safety requirements for self-employed individuals.



Scotland / Parliamentary campaigns

A Members' Bill to amend the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland) Act 1976 was proposed by Labour MSP Patricia Ferguson. The Bill included proposals to extend the scope of inquiries to cover deaths from industrial diseases, and make the process much quicker and more transparent. In its response, APIL endorsed the view that fatal accident inquires (FAI) should be heard by specialist sheriffs, and agreed that it should be mandatory for all recommendations made by sheriffs in an FAI to be implemented.

Wales / Parliamentary campaigns

APIL provided oral evidence to the Health and Social Care Committee of the National Assembly for Wales as part of the Committee's scrutiny of the Recovery of Medical Costs for Asbestos Diseases (Wales) Bill. The Bill was introduced by former APIL member and assembly member Mick Antoniwi, and was passed by the National Assembly towards the end of the year. It was then referred to the Supreme Court for a decision

on whether the Assembly has the authority to pass the Bill.

Northern Ireland / Parliamentary campaigns

An all-party group of the Northern Ireland Assembly was established to examine the reason for the high cost of motor insurance. APIL submitted ideas for reducing fraud in road traffic accident cases. Work also began on a campaign to safeguard legal aid funding in Northern Ireland.

MPs and peers continued to rely on APIL for expert briefings and opinions and the association was mentioned 19 times during parliamentary debates, in ministerial statements, and in answers to parliamentary questions.

> President's lunch 2013

Clockwise from top left: Andy Slaughter MP, Baroness Turner, Diane Burleigh, CILEX and Baroness Meta Ramsey of Cartvale.



Law reform

APIL has responded to 33 consultations across the jurisdictions this year, with the aim of highlighting the needs of injured people and ensuring access to justice for all. All of APIL's consultation responses can be found on the Association's website: www.apil.org.uk/consultations-and-apil-responses.

England and Wales overview

There were dramatic changes to the legal landscape in 2013. The Department for Transport undertook a review of the Motor Insurers Bureau's uninsured and untraced drivers' agreements, and in response, APIL stressed the importance of the principle of equivalency. Innocent insured drivers should be able to claim against an uninsured driver in the same way that they can claim against an insured driver.

Responding to three triennial reviews this year, APIL highlighted the continuing need for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, Health and Safety Executive and Civil Justice Council.

It was also another year for change surrounding health and safety law, redrafting HSE's guidance and approved codes of practice (ACOPs). APIL warned that the "simplified" replacement guidance and ACOPs may lead to more accidents as employers and employees are unaware of their obligations under health and safety law.

Judicial review: extension of RTA scheme and portal

In January 2013 APIL issued proceedings for a judicial review (JR) of the Government's proposed implementation of the extended RTA portal and EL and PL portal scheme. APIL's view was that the implementation was too hasty, that practitioners had no opportunity to plan ahead, as neither the new rules, nor the electronic portal were ready. APIL's view was that the MoJ made its decision to extend the portal without the full evaluation and on that particular point, acted unlawfully.

APIL instructed Kingsley Napley and Paul Nicholas QC of 11 Kings Bench Walk in the proceedings. MASS joined in, supporting APIL and the JR application was heard as a 'rolled up' hearing, on 1 March. Unfortunately, the Administrative Court found against APIL and MASS. But, prior to issuing, the threat of JR resulted in a concession from the Ministry of Justice: that the implementation date for the new EL/PL pre-action protocol and portal would be delayed until July 2013 to enable practitioners to have enough time to prepare for the changes. Further advice from counsel and pressure from APIL ensured that the advocacy rates payable in the extended pre-action protocols was properly up-rated.

Mesothelioma

The Government published its consultation, 'Reforming mesothelioma claims' aiming to speed up the settlement of claims in England and Wales. Its proposals for a portal-style pre-action protocol, fixed costs and a review of the effects of section 48 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO) on mesothelioma claims created a 'perfect storm' of delays and additional expense which would make it even less likely that compensation would be paid to claimants while they still lived. APIL obtained counsel's advice which indicated that a pre-action protocol which barred access to the court by a terminally ill claimant would be vulnerable to challenge on Article 6(1) Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) grounds.

In December the Government announced that it would not now pursue a new mesothelioma pre-action protocol or introduce fixed fees, but does intend to remove the exemptions from LASPO currently enjoyed by those making mesothelioma claims.

In May 2013, the Government published the Mesothelioma Bill which aims to compensate those who have contracted mesothelioma but who cannot trace their employer's insurers. In a two pronged approach, APIL's legal affairs team has worked with civil servants on various aspects of the scheme to be set up as a result of the Bill, while the communications team has worked on lobbying and media messages (see page 6).

Discount rate

Following APIL's attempted judicial review of the Lord Chancellor's failure to review the discount rate throughout 2011, a Ministry of Justice consultations were published in 2012 and 2013, to which APIL responded. The Government then published its discount rate research this October. A Government response to both consultations is now long overdue.

HMRC – change of policy: work histories for deceased persons

A sudden policy change by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in November meant that work histories for deceased claimants would no longer be supplied to personal representatives unless they obtained a court order. APIL wrote to HMRC in strong terms requesting an explanation for the policy change and that it be reversed. The policy change appears to be due to a reinterpretation of s.18 Commissioners for Revenue



and Customs Act 2005. APIL has been working with officials at the Ministry of Justice who are looking to solve this issue which threatens to affect is proposed mesothelioma reforms.

Whiplash and small claims

In March, a strong response was submitted to the Ministry of Justice's consultation, *Reducing the number and costs of whiplash claims* which had been issued at the end of 2012. This response contained APIL's research which showed that unrepresented claimants risked being gravely under compensated; personal injury claims are not sufficiently straightforward to be suitable for the small claims court and that if the small claims track limit was increased to £5,000 as proposed, then virtually all RTA related personal injury claims would fall within its remit. There was a respite when the Government announced in October that it would not be raising the small claims limit for personal injury claims. More work on accreditation of those who prepare medico-legal reports for such claims will be done in 2014 with the Ministry of Justice and other stakeholders.

S.69 Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013

This section of the Act affects all claimants who have claims arising from breaches of health and safety legislation. APIL is concerned that the effect will be an increasing number of claims failing which would, in the past, have succeeded against employers and, in claims which are successful, an increased level of costs incurred as a result of proving negligence where before strict liability applied. APIL is considering possible avenues on which to work, including research (see page 10).

Law Commission 12th programme

> Call for ideas

As part of the Law Commission consultation on a twelfth programme of law reform, APIL submitted a paper containing proposed law reform ideas including reform of the current law on bereavement damages in England and Wales; changes to the calculation of lifetime and post-death dependency claims in fatal disease cases; use of exemplary damages and reform of the law relating to secondary victims and psychiatric injury, particularly in relation to the decision in *Alcock v Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police* arising out of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster.

> Claimant fraud

In response to this consultation, APIL called for the Commission's focus to include questionable insurer behaviour, such as pre medical offers and direct approaches to the claimant.

The Law Commission will report to the Lord Chancellor in 2014 on its proposals.

Clinical Negligence: low value scheme

After a long period of silence the NHSLA produced its formal proposals for a low value clinical negligence scheme pilot together with proposals for a fixed cost regime. APIL has discussed its concerns about the pilot with the NHSLA. Work will continue into 2014.

Association of District Judges

APIL has met formally with Her Majesty's Association of District Judges (ADJ) on two occasions, with the Forum of Insurance Lawyers (FOIL). Useful discussions took place on the portal, Form H, costs budgeting and the use of regional courts for asbestos related disease claims.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

APIL attended the CICA's Policy and Equality Forum. This year the forum has dealt with, issues including:

- > Hardship fund;
- > Alternatives to retained awards and investment options;
- > Disclosure of information and medical reports;
- > European Union Compensation Assistance Team (EUCAT)

Scotland / Courts Reform (Scotland) Bill consultation

The Courts Reform (Scotland) Bill, due to be introduced in 2014, will effect radical changes to the way personal injury cases are dealt with by the Scottish courts. APIL has been involved in consultation on this issue from the outset and, in this response, repeated its argument that the new sheriff court limit should be £30,000 rather than the £150,000 proposed. The response also included arguments about the importance of legal aid for counsel; the need for PI cases to be dealt with by specialist sheriffs, and the the need for two specialist PI courts instead of one

Civil Law of Damages consultation

After years in the pipeline, the Scottish Government finally published a consultation focussing on reform of the law relating to psychiatric injury and limitation. APIL's response cautioned against a rigid approach to psychiatric injury and continued the association's long-standing campaign for greater flexibility in the interpretation of limitation issues in the Scottish courts. The Government's end of year response included much which APIL was able to welcome, particularly in relation to limitation. A Bill is expected to be introduced in 2014.

Northern Ireland

APIL responded to five consultations on legal aid in Northern Ireland this year. From changes to financial eligibility and civil legal aid remuneration, to a consultation on alternatives for funding money damages cases, APIL highlighted throughout the importance of legal aid in Northern Ireland as a means of providing access to justice for the vulnerable.



Research

Many of APIL's responses to consultations, parliamentary and media campaigns are supported by in-house research.

MoJ's consultation 'Reducing the number and cost of whiplash claims'

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) issued a consultation on 11 December 2012 proposing a number of key reforms as a means to tackle what it saw as "increases in claims for compensation relating to whiplash injuries ... having a significant impact on the motor insurance premiums paid by individuals, families and businesses". In particular the consultation considered the creation of independent medical panels to support better diagnosis of possible whiplash injuries as well as the raising of the small claims court limit for personal injury. As part of APIL's response, a survey of members was undertaken in order to gain data about the effects of legal representation on the level of damage awards and evidence of insurer/defendant bad behaviour.

The research findings included:

- > For whiplash-only claims the presence of a lawyer meant that the final settlement was about 200 per cent more than if the injured claimant had accepted the first offer made to them. Once a lawyer is involved, the amount of compensation awarded increases by about 60 per cent.
- > For claims where there were multiple injuries including whiplash the presence of a lawyer meant that the final settlement was about 150 per cent more than if the injured claimant had accepted the first offer made to them. Once a lawyer is involved, the amount of compensation awarded increases by about 50 per cent.

Survey of medics: accreditation of medical experts in whiplash cases

APIL surveyed medics who are registered on its expert database in December to hear their views. The results of the survey are being used to inform APIL's work with the Ministry of Justice as part of its continuing consultation on reducing the number and costs of whiplash claims.

Settlement offers made prior to a medical report ('pre-med offers')

As well as casting doubt on the appropriateness of raising the small claims limit, the Transport Select Committee's report about whiplash and the cost of motor insurance also highlighted concerns about the issue of pre-medical offers. In order to find out how widespread this practice was, APIL surveyed its members in August / September. The results will be used to inform further work and campaigns in the new year.

APIL Consumer Panel

A new consumer focused advisory panel was set up this year. The aim of the panel is to speak on behalf of consumers in relation to APIL's policies and practices. The following organisations are represented on the panel:

- > Roadpeace
- > Headway
- > Mesothelioma UK
- > Aspire
- > Spinal Injuries Association (SIA)
- > RoSPA

Meetings are currently held quarterly and have included discussions on APIL's consumer protection documents (Code of Conduct, charter) and the APIL website.

Bereavement damages

APIL commissioned consumer research to support its' bereavement damages campaign launched this year. One of the main findings of the research is that over 80 per cent of the UK public felt that the level of bereavement damages should be above £15,000, while over half (57 per cent) of people think the level should be over £100,000 (the current level of bereavement damages in England and Wales is £12,980).

Mesothelioma claims

In response to the Ministry of Justice's (MOJ) consultation on reforming mesothelioma claims and the proposal to introduce a dedicated mesothelioma pre-action protocol, APIL asked its occupational health special interest group (SIG) members to comment on their experiences of using the current disease and illness pre-action protocol (DPAP) for mesothelioma claims. The survey found that, in terms of the percentage of successful mesothelioma claims where liability is admitted within the current DPAP, nearly half of respondents (46 per cent) indicated that this happened in only one to ten per cent of cases they handle. A further quarter (23 per cent) of respondents indicates that it never happens.

PI Focus

As part of the review of PI Focus, new editor Rachel Rothwell asked APIL to undertake research to ascertain member's views of the existing APIL publications. In total there were 294 full and partial responses to the survey, with the results informing the PI Focus re-launch.



APIL in the media

Whiplash claims, proposals for the small claims court, and the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act were all hot topics for APIL in the media in 2013.

Highlights

- > An overall print press circulation of 25,608,790.
- > Former president Karl Tonks talking about plans to reform whiplash claims and the small claims court on BBC One Breakfast, BBC Radio 5live and BBC Radio Manchester.
- > Chief executive Deborah Evans speaking about the Transport Select Committee's whiplash report on ITV's Daybreak, BBC Radio WM and BBC Radio 5live.
- > 25 national newspaper articles featuring APIL.
- > A regional press letter campaign supported by APIL members highlighted the consequences of plans to increase the small claims court limit. The letter was printed in 22 newspapers, reaching more than 386,000 readers.
- > An APIL story about the threat to workers' rights presented by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act reached a circulation of half a million in the regional newspapers. It included regional injury statistics from the Health and Safety Executive.

BBC Breakfast, ITV's Daybreak, Sky News, ITN, and BBC Radio 5live are among the broadcasters to have approached APIL for its views on a range of subjects.

On air

APIL spokesmen publicised the association's messages from breakfast TV sofas, through national radio debates, and on regional stations across the UK during the year.

BBC Breakfast, ITV's Daybreak, Sky News, ITN, and BBC Radio 5live are among the broadcasters to have approached APIL for its views on subjects including claims against schools and the so-called 'compensation culture'.

Many requests for interviews were about the ongoing whiplash debate and the cost of motor premiums. APIL's spokesmen took this opportunity to point out the consequences of the Government's plan to force whiplash victims through the small claims court.



> Mathew Stockwell on the Daybreak sofa

National press

The Scotsman, Daily Mail, Metro, The Times, Daily Telegraph, Mail on Sunday, Financial Times, and The Sun all took comment from APIL in 2013 to reach more than 25.6 million readers.

Subjects included legal costs, and the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill, but whiplash and its impact on car insurance premiums was by far the most popular topic of 2013.

Industry news

APIL continued to engage with journalists from legal and insurance industry publications and websites, keeping them updated on developments and responding to enquiries.

Throughout 2013, APIL regularly featured in the Law Society Gazette, POST Magazine, Insurance Times, Solicitors Journal, New Law Journal, Legal Futures, Litigation Futures, and on The Times' online law pages.

In the regions

Nearly eight million regional newspaper readers saw APIL's press coverage in 2013, as the association reached out to all four corners of the UK.

A warning about the impact of Government proposals for small claims courts was issued to regional newspapers, and, in September, focus was on Scotland when Sheriff Principal Taylor issued his report on the courts system north of the border. In Northern Ireland, APIL issued a release to highlight the lack of a Government response on bereavement damages.

Other consumer issues covered by the association included carbon monoxide safety, the law on residents



clearing snow and ice from footpaths, and a campaign to influence drivers' approach to safety and make tailgating socially unacceptable.

Regional workplace injury figures were used to highlight the dangers in the then-Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill in a particularly popular press campaign in February.

Social media

APIL engaged with more Twitter users than ever, and law firms and other organisations continued to use the social media website to share their news with the organisation. Over the course of 2013, the number of Twitter users following APIL grew by 73 per cent.

In the autumn, APIL used social media to educate the public about the consequences of tailgating with an animated video called A Lesson in Social Graces. The quirky film depicting a hapless tailgater who gets too close to others in a variety of scenarios has been viewed more than 14,000 times on YouTube. It was promoted on Twitter and through a Facebook campaign page which garnered nearly 2,500 'likes' at its peak.

Website and online activity

Overall, visits to APIL's website remain steady, with a 15 per cent increase in the number of unique visitors to the website this year. Several sections of the website have seen significant increases in traffic including the public homepage (up 67 per cent), expert searches (up 30 per cent) and legal training (up eight per cent). Additionally, traffic to the mobile site (where visitors are directed to a trimmed down edition of the website tailored to small screen sizes), has increased by 73 per cent: this upward trend is expected to continue.

- > The budget for online marketing was significantly increased this year to enable APIL to better compete with larger organisations on popular search terms.
- > The number of injured people clicking through to APIL from Google advertisements has increased by 78 per cent. Work to provide more information to help consumers and improvements to search engine optimisation this year will ensure APIL ranks high on web searches and will assist in directing work to accredited members.
- > The home page now also includes a search facility so that consumers can use key words or a full list to search for organisations and charities which offer support to injured people.
- > There is also now a series of flow charts on the website to help members and consumers understand APIL's accreditation process. A complaints procedure has also been incorporated and consumers can leave feedback and testimonials.

Information exchange service and discussion forums

The APIL online discussion forums and information exchange service allow members to interact with each other and the APIL office either through online discussions or by direct contact (phone/email). APIL offers a comprehensive resource to the membership which includes online practice documents and case notes which provide information on a variety of relevant subjects, along with the expert database, insurer search facilities, JPIL archive, solicitor and barrister search functions, the multi track code pilot and rehabilitation code.



Events and networking

An unprecedented year, training courses and conferences to help members cope with reforms



> Karl Tonks and David Bott

Groups

The regional and special interest group meetings continue to be one of the many benefits of membership and the number of delegates attending overall increased from 1,351 in 2012 to 1,788 in 2013. A total of 51 special interest and regional group meetings were held this year.

Training

In response to law reforms and the implementation of the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, APIL introduced new and updated courses to ensure that members were fully up-to-date, running a total of 108 events. The Spring and Autumn PI updates 2013 continue to be extremely popular with an overall total of 926 members being trained on these alone.

Also included are two new specialist courses: Running a brain injury case – the fundamentals, and The fundamentals of deafness and other disease claims.

Ten one-day conferences were held in 2013, including a joint JPIL conference covering the Jackson reforms in conjunction with FOIL and MASS. Our Running cases in the new era conference was so popular in London that an up-to-date version also ran in Manchester. Nearly 300 members attended these two events. Other conferences covered specialist subjects such as military claims, elderly clients, asbestos related disease and child abuse claims. A total of 40 in-house training courses were also delivered.

Twenty-two webinars, covering key areas in personal injury and the introduction of a complimentary quarterly update contributed to 2013 being APIL's best training year ever.



> Stefanie Reid, Olympic gold medalist

Special events

The annual conference and AGM was attended by 252 delegates, around 40 speakers and 130 exhibitors on 63 stands. Opening with the AGM, there followed a debate on the erosion of standards, ethics and consumer protection.

The catastrophic injuries conference ran at Whittlebury Hall, Northamptonshire, attended by 59 delegates and an exhibition of 16 stands and many eminent expert speakers.

The annual conference and AGM was attended by 252 delegates, around 40 speakers and 130 exhibitors on 63 stands

The annual Autumn clinical negligence conference covered the specialist theme of oncology and was held at Beaumont House, Windsor. Delegates had an opportunity to listen to over 20 expert speakers.

Finally, another successful golf day was held prior to annual conference. Sponsored by Compass Costs, it was fully subscribed and resulted in a donation of £1,500 to nominated charity RoSPA.



Accreditation

Revalidation

APIL continues to ensure that its scheme of individual accreditation meets the highest standards, warranting the highest level of client confidence in the services provided. A number of recommendations were made by the Legal Services Board Consumer Panel and, as a result, we have introduced a process for accreditation revalidation, every five years.

APIL also continues its monitoring activity in five key areas to ensure that our high standards are met: site visits to corporate accredited firms, individual training logs, training delivered in-house, training delivered by APIL and other providers.

Academic quality council

The duties formerly conducted by APIL's academic quality council (monitoring activity and changes to accreditation criteria) have been transferred to APIL's training and accreditation committee, reporting to the full executive committee.

Publications

Experts and rehabilitation services directory

As at year end, 774 experts were registered on the database. 363 had chosen to take up the option of an enhanced listing on both the online members' area of the website and within the experts' and rehabilitation services directory.

APIL guides

APIL's 'Guide' series of practical publications for practitioners continue to thrive. Two new APIL guides have been published for APIL by Jordan Publishing this year. They are APIL Guide to Damages (3rd ed) by Simon Allen, Ivan Bowley, Hugh Davies, and APIL Guide to Personal Injury Claims Procedure (2nd ed) by John McQuater.

PI Focus

Rachel Rothwell is the new editor of APIL's membership publication. PI Focus has been completely redesigned this year and continues to publish a wide variety of articles and practice reviews, designed to assist and educate the membership. As part of that re-launch, APIL's monthly e-bulletin, Connect, has been discontinued and its content shared between the weekly news email to members and the news section in PI Focus.

Statistics

Attendance at executive committee meetings (maximum 8) January – December 2013

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| Matthew Stockwell, President St Johns Buildings, Liverpool | a | 7 |
| John Spencer, Vice President Spencers, Chesterfield | b | 8 |
| Stuart Kightley, Secretary Osbornes, London | c | 7 |
| Nigel Tomkins, Treasurer Nigel Tomkins Consultancy, Edwalton | | |
| Karl Tonks, Immediate Past President Fentons Solicitors, p/o Slater & Gordon, Manchester | d e | 7 |
| David Bott Bott & Co, Wimslow | f g | 6 |
| Cenric Clement-Evans NewLaw, Cardiff | | 5 |
| Bridget Collier Fentons Solicitors, p/o Slater & Gordon, Manchester | g j | 5 |
| Gordon Dalyell Digby Brown, Edinburgh | i | 8 |
| Brian Dawson Walker Smith Way, Chester | | 7 |
| Colin Ettinger Irwin Mitchell, London | g j | 3 |
| Martin Hanna Francis Hanna & Co, Belfast | | 6 |
| John McQuater Atherton Godfrey, Doncaster | | 8 |
| Victoria Mortimer-Harvey Pattinson & Brewer, London | | 8 |
| Neil Sugarman GLP Solicitors, Bury | | 7 |
| Mark Turnbull Thompsons, Liverpool | | 5 |
| Robert Webb HSR Law, Gainsborough | | 6 |
| Jonathan Wheeler Bolt Burdon Kemp, London | | 6 |
| Jane Horton Irwin Mitchell, Leeds | h k | 3 |
| Stephen Lawson FDR Law, Cheshire | h k | 3 |

a Elected as president at AGM: 18 April 2013

b Elected as vice president at AGM: 18 April 2013

c Elected as secretary at AGM: 18 April 2013

d Post as president ended at AGM: 18 April 2013

e Post as immediate past president started at AGM: 18 April 2013

f Post as immediate past president ended at AGM: 18 April 2013

g Elected at AGM: 18 April 2013

h Did not stand for re-election

i Re-elected At AGM: 18 April 2013

j Out of a possible 5 meetings post election at AGM

k Out of a possible 3 meetings before AGM



Statistics

Membership

By the end of the year APIL's membership stood at 4,237. A total of 453 new members were recruited during the year, an average of nearly 38 per month.

A new category of membership for 'associates' was approved at the AGM in April for expert witnesses, individuals within charitable organisations, and people working within solicitor firms and chambers without their own caseload.

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Practitioners | 3,746 |
| Non practising members | 24 |
| Honorary life members | 16 |
| Barristers in chambers | 151 |
| Paralegals | 180 |
| Students | 24 |
| Academics | 9 |
| Overseas | 83 |
| Associate members | 3 |
| Total | 4,237 |

Accreditation

Just over 30 per cent of the eligible membership is accredited. The accreditation scheme was also adapted to make it applicable to members in Scotland the new standards becoming effective from 1 November.

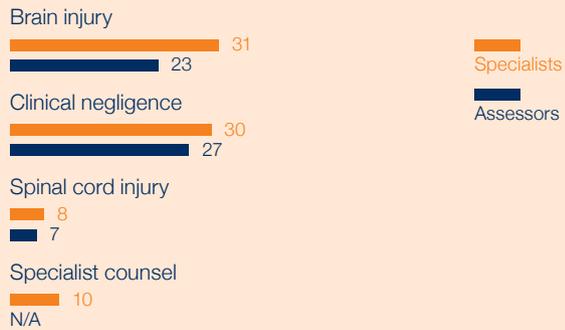
Figures as at 31 December.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Litigators | 252 |
| Senior litigators | 781 |
| Fellows | 176 |
| Senior fellows | 10 |
| Specialist counsel | 10 |
| Totals | 1,229 |
| Emeritus | 6 |
| 236 corporate accredited firms | |
| 84 in-house accredited firms | |
| 47 externally accredited training providers | |

Specialist accreditation

In addition to existing quality marks for APIL accredited clinical negligence and brain injury specialists, additional quality marks were introduced this year for spinal cord injury specialists and accredited specialist counsel in personal injury. APIL also introduced a new standard for portal users in October, which is designed to be used as a development tool for employees who are new to using the RTA and EL/PL pre-action protocols and electronic portals.

At the end of the year, the number of specialists and assessors in each specialist area was as follows:



Totals





Financial Report

Nigel Tomkins / Treasurer



For the financial year, we report an after-tax surplus of £200,015. This figure is a slight improvement on the previous year, and it matches our year end projections from the mid-year point onwards.

The surplus has been generated in another year of change for our members, and also in a year when as a consequence of the changes proposed, APIL mounted several robust legal challenges to the Government's proposals which affect personal injury lawyers.

A drop of 323 in membership numbers is reflected in the total income received from subscriptions in 2013. The total of £870,076 is down on the previous year's figure by some £38,012.

In terms of our investments, as outlined in previous reports, we continue to operate a "minimum risk" strategy, which consequently limits our exposure, but which also affects the return on our investments. As a consequence, with interest rates remaining at a record low 0.5 per cent for a third successive year, the return on our investments was £6,838.

Having set a challenging target in terms of advertising sales in PI Focus this year the budget figure of £81,000 has been met.

Our partnership arrangement with AON which started in September 2011, offers members access to discounted rates for their professional indemnity Insurance. This arrangement has been renegotiated for a third year, generating £20,000.

There have been some unforeseen demands on APIL's finances. We have run several legal challenges this year on issues of importance to APIL members. These included a judicial review of the Ministry of Justice's proposals for the introduction of fixed recoverable costs

Having set a challenging target in terms of advertising sales in PI Focus this year the budget figure of £81,000 has been met

The pace and scope of change required APIL to provide more essential training for our members, including: 'Running cases in the new era,' 'Portals – the essentials for EL/PL lawyers,' 'Making portals pay' and 'Accidents at Work 2013 – covering changes to Health and Safety at Work.'

In addition, our schedule of spring and autumn personal injury updates were well attended. We were also able to provide 43 in-house events and 15 webinars on a host of various subjects that in every instance reflected the most up-to-the-minute subject information available to us.

[Back to Contents](#)





> Most, but not all of the APIL staff

and extensions to the RTA portal scheme. We also took legal advice on a proposed Mesothelioma pre-action protocol and on the implementation of s.69 Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013. The final cost of all of these is not yet known, but including accruals for outstanding fees, we estimate that we will have committed approximately £120,000 on legal challenges/costs in the final few months of 2012 and 2013.

Despite the additional call on our expenditure as outlined above, we have under-spent on our operational, overhead and salaries budgets by £166,000.

We have not had to make any withdrawals from APIL's reserves, which at the end of 2012 stood at £643,894. The after tax surplus figure on our income and expenditure account for the current year of £200,015, will increase our reserves by the corresponding amount, taking them to £843,909. This is considered an appropriate level of reserves, and affords the association opportunities to mount further legal challenges in the future, if necessary.

APIL made one charitable donation during the financial year, of £1,500 to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA).

The improved cash position at the end of 2013, is an increase on the previous year, amounting to £211,432.

The surplus generated has been largely due to the efforts of the training committee and the events team, in determining and then delivering training that our members need. Indeed, all of our income streams held up particularly well during this financial year.

As a consequence of these financial results membership subscriptions will remain at their 2012 level for the coming year.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to the APIL staff, which has ensured that this year's budgetary targets have been met. I am grateful to them all for their hard work.

Nigel Tomkins
Treasurer





Year ended 31 December 2013

Report of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2013. This report also forms the report of the directors, as required under s.415 of the Companies Act 2006.

Principal activity

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

Review of business

In 2013, APIL developments included:

- > APIL mounting and funding a legal challenge against the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), in the form of a judicial review, opposing the proposed introduction of fixed recoverable costs and extensions to the RTE portal scheme
- > APIL broadened the range and complexity of all its' training provision, including one day conferences on new subject matter such as military, cosmetic/plastic surgery, an excellent programme of one day training events and webinars which were fully supported by our members, enabling the association to see a 48% increase in course attendance on our 2012 numbers
- > Organising a programme of training events/courses specifically tailored to the implementation of the LASPO Act and extended Portal scheme
- > Continuing to influence government decision making by contributing to some 33 legal policy consultation papers in 2013 and attending regular meetings with the MoJ
- > The production of a Justice for Mesothelioma Victims booklet outlining the facts, fiction and ideas for change
- > The re-launch of APIL's membership magazine PI Focus in March 2013
- > Further consolidation of APIL's new competency standards with the introduction of a standard for personal injury lawyers in Scotland, in addition to identifying specialists in clinical negligence, brain injuries and the introduction of a new standard in spinal cord injuries
- > The continuation of our partnership arrangement with AON
- > Further improvements to the APIL website, including developing a specific area for accredited clinical negligence lawyers

- > The launch of the new Accredited Specialist Counsel in Personal Injury for England and Wales
- > A comprehensive programme of research including work on bereavement damages, the commissioning of a benchmarking report and further work around consumer benchmarking

In 2014, we expect:

- > To work with the MoJ to inform policy development where it is deemed appropriate
- > Further enhancements to the APIL website, including developing a specific area for occupational health and asbestos specialists
- > A reduction in our membership numbers due to a shrinking of the profession
- > To be working towards a new competency standard for personal injury lawyers in Northern Ireland
- > To be introducing the re validation of individual accreditation every 5 years
- > To continue with the project work already undertaken on bereavement damages
- > To continue with the on going work already being undertaken on the multi-track code, NHSLA, and developing fact sheets for members of the public
- > To challenge the decision by HMRC not to issue work histories for deceased people
- > Continue to assess the effects of LASPO and the Portal Extension through targeted research
- > Review the MOJ proposed reform of medical reporting in RTA cases
- > The production of an APIL 10 year vision and campaigns plan outlining the targeted areas that APIL will focus on using it's press and media resources in the future
- > To ensure that APIL are properly prepared to be able to deal with a rapidly changing personal injury market
- > To campaign for a change to the law on psychiatric harm
- > To work towards the continued financial sustainability of APIL

Results

Details of the results for the year are set out in the income and expenditure account on page 21.



Directors

The directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1 January 2013 to the date of this report.

M Stockwell
N Tomkins
K Tonks

Other changes in directors holding office are as follows:

D Bott appointed 18 April 2013
C Clement-Evans appointed 18 April 2013
B Collier appointed 18 April 2013
G Dalyell appointed 18 April 2013
B M Dawson appointed 18 April 2013
M Hanna appointed 18 April 2013
S D Kightley appointed 18 April 2013
J E Mcquater appointed 18 April 2013
V Mortimer-Harvey appointed 18 April 2013
J L Spencer appointed 18 April 2013
N L Sugarman appointed 18 April 2013
M Turnbull appointed 19 April 2013
R Webb appointed 18 April 2013
J Wheeler appointed 18 April 2013
C Ettinger appointed 18 April 2013
S Lawson resigned 18 April 2013
M Lyons resigned 18 April 2013
J Horton resigned 18 April 2013

Political and charitable contributions

APIL made one charitable donation during the financial year, namely £1,500 to ROSPA, from funds raised directly from the APIL charity golf day (in 2012 we donated £1,500 to The Spinal Injuries Association).

Financial risk management

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

Qualifying third party indemnity provisions

The company maintains liability insurance for directors and officers as permitted by section 234 of the Companies Act 2006

Provision of information to auditor

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

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

Statement of Directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors 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.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

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

On behalf of the board:

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

S D Kightley
Secretary

20 March 2014





A company limited by guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

We have audited the financial statements of Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (A company limited by guarantee) for the year ended 31 December 2013 on pages 21 to 25. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

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

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities set out on page 19, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

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

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- > give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2013 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- > have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities; and
- > have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Report of the Directors for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Jill Evenden

(Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of EBS Chartered Accountants

Gothic House
Barker Gate
Nottingham
NG1 1JU

21 March 2014





Year ended 31 December 2013

Income & Expenditure Account

| | Notes | 2013 £ | 2012 £ |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Turnover | | 2,861,244 | 2,811,574 |
| Cost of sales | | 1,190,971 | 1,191,774 |
| Gross surplus | | 1,670,273 | 1,619,800 |
| Administration expenses | | 1,422,359 | 1,404,993 |
| Operating surplus | 2 | 247,914 | 214,807 |
| Interest receivable and similar income | | 6,838 | 10,949 |
| Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation | | 254,752 | 225,756 |
| Tax on surplus on ordinary activities | 4 | 54,737 | 48,327 |
| Surplus for the financial year | | 200,015 | 177,429 |

All activities derive from continuing operations.

There are no recognised gains or losses for the current financial year or previous year other than as stated in the income and expenditure account.

The notes on pages 22 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

Year ended 31 December 2013

Balance Sheet

| | Note | 2013 £ | 2012 £ |
|--|------|-----------|-----------|
| Fixed assets | | | |
| Tangible assets | 6 | 545,518 | 558,426 |
| Current assets | | | |
| Debtors | 7 | 99,529 | 110,179 |
| Cash at bank | | 1,242,559 | 1,031,127 |
| | | 1,342,088 | 1,141,306 |
| Creditors | | | |
| Amounts falling due within one year | 8 | 839,392 | 824,652 |
| Net current assets | | 502,696 | 316,654 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | 1,048,214 | 875,080 |
| Creditors | | | |
| Amounts falling due within one year | 9 | (202,936) | (230,032) |
| Provisions for liabilities | 11 | (1,369) | (1,154) |
| Net assets | | 843,909 | 643,894 |
| Reserves | | | |
| Income & expenditure account | 12 | 843,909 | 643,894 |
| Members funds | | 843,909 | 643,894 |

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 20 March 2014 and were signed on its behalf by:

N Tomkins
Director

[Back to Contents](#)





Year ended 31 December 2013

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

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

Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

Membership subscriptions to the association cover a period of twelve months to 31 March each year. Subscriptions received during the year have been credited to the income and expenditure account, subject to the deferral of three months of each subscription, representing that portion attributable from 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014.

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.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Freehold property | 2% on cost |
| Fixtures and fittings | 20% on cost |

Deferred tax

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

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

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

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to the profit and loss account in the period to which they relate.

Interest receivable

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

Leases

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

2. Operating surplus

The operating surplus is stated after charging/(crediting):

| | 2013 | 2012 |
|--|--------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| Depreciation - owned assets | 17,608 | 17,685 |
| Loss / (profit) on disposal of fixed assets | 857 | (6,043) |
| Pension costs | 37,879 | 37,553 |
| Directors' remuneration and other benefits etc | - | - |

3. Auditors' remuneration

| | 2013 | 2012 |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| | £ | £ |
| Auditors remuneration | 4,500 | 5,750 |



4. Taxation**Analysis of the tax charge**

The tax charge on the surplus on ordinary activities for the year was as follows:

| | 2013 | 2012 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| | £ | £ |
| Current tax | | |
| UK corporation tax | 54,522 | 48,327 |
| Deferred tax | 215 | |
| Tax on surplus on ordinary activities | 54,737 | 48,327 |

5. Membership subscriptions

| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|---------|---------|
| | No | No | £ | £ |
| Practitioner members | 3,746 | 4,205 | 786,660 | 869,286 |
| Student members | 24 | 30 | 1,260 | 1,903 |
| Paralegal members | 331 | 204 | 51,510 | 24,668 |
| Academic members | 9 | 12 | 810 | 1,227 |
| Overseas members | 83 | 95 | 8,300 | 11,197 |
| Honorary members | 44 | 14 | 5,370 | - |
| Total | 4,237 | 4,560 | 853,910 | 908,281 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|
| Add deferred income brought forward | | 228,894 | 228,701 |
| Less deferred income carried forward | | (212,728) | (228,894) |
| Total | | 870,076 | 908,088 |

| | | | |
|---|--|--------|--------|
| Corporate accreditation income received in the year | | 93,164 | 57,700 |
|---|--|--------|--------|

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------|--------|
| Add deferred income brought forward | | 34,568 | 35,563 |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------|--------|

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------|----------|
| Less deferred income carried forward | | (32,710) | (34,563) |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------|----------|

| | | | |
|--|--|--------|--------|
| | | 95,022 | 58,695 |
|--|--|--------|--------|

| | | | |
|--|--|---------|---------|
| | | 965,098 | 966,783 |
|--|--|---------|---------|

6. Tangible fixed assets

| | Land & Buildings | Plant & Machinery | Totals |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Cost | | | |
| At 1 January 2013 | 577,135 | 45,036 | 622,171 |
| Additions | - | 5,385 | 5,385 |
| Disposals | - | (3,878) | (3,878) |
| | 577,135 | 46,543 | 623,678 |

Depreciation

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| At 1 January 2013 | 34,629 | 29,116 | 63,745 |
| Charge for year | 11,543 | 6,065 | 17,608 |
| Eliminated on disposal | - | (3,193) | (3,193) |

Net book value

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| At 31 December 2013 | 530,963 | 14,555 | 545,518 |
| At 31 December 2012 | 542,506 | 15,920 | 558,426 |

7. Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

| | 2013 | 2012 |
|---------------|--------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade debtors | 53,796 | 65,309 |
| Other debtors | 45,733 | 44,870 |
| | 99,529 | 110,179 |

8. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

| | 2013 | 2012 |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade creditors | 127,342 | 55,472 |
| Taxation and social security | 68,439 | 64,088 |
| Other creditors | 643,611 | 705,092 |
| | 839,392 | 824,652 |



9. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

| | 2013 | 2012 |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| Other creditors | 202,936 | 230,032 |

Creditors include amounts not wholly repayable within 5 years as follows:

| | 2013 | 2012 |
|--|--------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| | 78,079 | 112,260 |

The mortgage is secured on the property, Unit 3 Riverside Business Park, Nottingham.

10. Operating lease commitments

The following operating lease payments are committed to be paid within one year:

| | 2013 | 2012 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|
| | £ | £ |
| Expiring: | | |
| Between one and five years | 6,426 | 6,426 |

11. Provisions for liabilities

| | 2013 | 2012 |
|--------------|-------|-------|
| | £ | £ |
| Deferred tax | 1,369 | 1,154 |

| | Deferred tax |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| | £ |
| Balance at 1 January 2013 | 1,154 |
| Provided during year | 215 |
| Balance at 31 December 2013 | 1,369 |

12. Reserves

| | Income & Expenditure Account |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| | |
| At 1 January 2013 | 643,894 |
| Surplus for the year | 200,015 |
| At 31 December 2013 | 843,909 |

13. Related party transactions

The following amounts have been paid to members of the Executive Committee for their provision of services as trainers (applies only to full day training provision), to the company in the year. All transactions are at arms length and are on normal commercial terms. The amounts disclosed only relate to the period in which the members are elected to Executive Committee.

| | 2013 | 2012 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| | £ | £ |
| N Tomkins | 83,508 | 64,450 |
| D Bott | 5,990 | 3,440 |
| B Dawson | - | 2,320 |
| J McQuater | 65,588 | 44,540 |
| C Clement - Evans | 9,376 | 7,200 |
| S D Kightley | 910 | - |

14. Share capital

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

15. Ultimate controlling party

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





Year ended 31 December 2013

Detailed Income & Expenditure Account

APIL Annual Report & Accounts 2013
Detailed Income & Expenditure Account

| | 2013 | 2012 | | 2013 | 2012 |
|--|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|
| | £ | £ | | £ | £ |
| Turnover | | | Expenditure | | |
| Membership | 1,093,787 | 1,135,116 | Wages | 831,833 | 837,122 |
| Conference, SIGS and regional meetings | 628,215 | 615,015 | Social security | 73,368 | 84,910 |
| Training events | 1,045,584 | 957,568 | Pensions | 37,879 | 37,553 |
| Publishing | 93,658 | 103,875 | Recruitment | 845 | 2,952 |
| | 2,861,244 | 2,811,574 | Property costs | 68,975 | 68,725 |
| Cost of sales | | | Staff training | 9,726 | 11,989 |
| Membership | 32,643 | 37,030 | Post and other costs | 226,713 | 260,367 |
| Conference | 445,058 | 420,430 | Travelling | 9,043 | 19,579 |
| Training events | 577,062 | 579,274 | IT costs | 13,480 | 7,985 |
| Legal affairs, research & comms | 70,375 | 30,130 | Executive committee | 43,641 | 56,418 |
| Publishing | 65,833 | 124,910 | Judicial review | 83,873 | - |
| | 1,190,971 | 1,191,774 | Auditors' remuneration | 4,500 | 5,750 |
| Gross surplus | 1,670,273 | 1,619,800 | Depreciation of tangible fixed assets | | |
| Other income | | | Freehold property | 11,543 | 11,543 |
| Deposit account interest | 6,838 | 10,949 | Fixtures and fittings | 6,083 | 6,143 |
| | 1,677,111 | 1,630,749 | Profit/loss on sale of tangible fixed assets | 857 | (6,043) |
| | | | | 1,422,359 | 1,404,993 |
| | | | Net surplus | 254,752 | 225,756 |





2013

Officers & Executive Committee Members



Matthew Stockwell
Vice President

St Johns Building Chambers
Liverpool



John Spencer
Vice President

Spencers Solicitors
Chesterfield



Stuart Kightley
Secretary

Osbornes Solicitors LLP
London



Nigel Tomkins
Treasurer

Nigel Tomkins Consultancy,
Edwalton



Karl Tonks
Immediate Past President
President until 18.04.2013

Fentons Solicitors part of
Slater & Gordon Lawyers
Manchester



David Bott

Bott & Co
Wilmslow



Cenric Clement-Evans

NewLaw Solicitors
Cardiff



Bridget Collier

Fentons Solicitors part of
Slater & Gordon Lawyers
Manchester



**Gordon Dalyell**

Digby Brown LLP
Edinburgh

**Brian Dawson**

Walker Smith Way Ltd
Chester

**Colin Ettinger**

Irwin Mitchell LLP
London

**Martin Hanna**

Francis Hanna & Co
Belfast

**Jane Horton**

until 18-04-2013

Irwin Mitchell LLP
Leeds

**Stephen Lawson**

Secretary until 18-04-2013

FDR Law
Frodsham

**John McQuater**

Atherton Godfrey
Doncaster

**Victoria Mortimer-Harvey**

Pattinson & Brewer
London

**Neil Sugarman**

GLP Solicitors
Bury

**Mark Turnbull**

Thompsons Solicitors LLP
Liverpool

**Robert Webb**

HSR Law
Gainsborough

**Jonathan Wheeler**

Bolt Burdon Kemp
London



Association of
Personal Injury Lawyers
3 Adler Court
Rennie Hogg Road
Nottingham NG2 1RX

DX 716208 Nottingham 42
0115 958 0585
mail@apil.org.uk
www.apil.org.uk
