



March 2010

## Letter to Daily Telegraph - legal aid for bereaved families at inquests

Sir,

RE: 7/7 survivors may face bill for lawyers (02/03/10)

The plight of the families of the victims of the 7/7 bombings highlights that of many other grieving families who cannot obtain funding for legal representation at inquests.

As in this case, the public bodies involved are often legally represented at the taxpayer's expense, and all too often bereaved people, already distressed and completely unfamiliar with the system, face an unlevel playing field where they must use their own resources to gain funding or go without much-needed legal representation and support.

It is disappointing that despite lengthy and passionate discussion during the passage of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, this issue has ultimately not been addressed.

Denise Kitchener, Chief Executive, Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)