



5 October

Sir

Re: Council strips tree of its conkers after girl hit on head by branch (National papers and *Nottingham Post*)

For Nottingham City Council to remove all the conkers from a tree for safety reasons illustrates the widespread misunderstanding of health and safety laws.

It is difficult to see how the council would be liable for a branch thrown by another child to dislodge conkers from a tree. The unfortunate injury sustained by Katie Roden (16 months ago) was nothing more than an accident.

The Government, in its current review of health and safety, must ensure the public and local authorities are better educated about the difference between an accident and negligence.

Only a greater understanding of the law can prevent further needless risk aversion without compromising safety. Accidents happen, but negligence is inexcusable.

Yours sincerely,

Muiris Lyons,
President of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)
11 Castle Quay,
Nottingham,
NG7 1FW