



23 September 2010

Sir,

Re: Joe Riley column 'Welcome finish to nanny nonsense' (Liverpool Echo)

Health and safety legislation is there to protect people from unnecessary harm. Personal injury claims cannot be made for everyday accidents. They can only be made if an injury is caused by negligence.

There is no such thing as a "compensation culture" in the UK. In 2004 the Better Regulation Taskforce found that the so-called "compensation culture" was a myth and called on those in positions of influence, such as leading politicians, to resist talking about it as doing so only perpetuated the myth. It is disappointing that Lord Young and David Cameron are looking to make sweeping changes to the law because of a myth.

The use of 'no-win, no fee' claims became more prevalent after the Government scrapped legal aid for personal injury law more than ten years ago. And during the past ten years, according to the Government's Compensation Recovery Unit, the number of claims has fallen in most areas.

In order to combat the misconception of a "compensation culture", the public needs to be made more aware of health and safety laws. Sensible risk assessments enable people to hold adventurous activities safe in the knowledge that they are aware of the risks. Not only do risk assessments reduce the risk being sued, but they also reduce the risk of injury.

Yours faithfully  
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