



4 November 2010

Re: Chris Kelly column 'A welcome decision as brake put on ambulance chasers' - *Dudley Chronicle*

Whatever changes the Government makes to the health and safety laws, it must ensure that the interests of injured people remain at the heart of its plans.

Figures from the Government's compensation recovery unit show that the so-called "compensation culture" is a myth. The number of personal injury claims has fallen in most categories during the past decade. Even Lord Young says the issue is "one of perception rather than reality".

What's needed is education to dispel myths and generate clarity and proper understanding of the compensation system, where currently there is very little. People need to be made more aware that compensation cannot be claimed for an everyday accident. Only when there is negligence is a claim valid.

The best way to cut the number of claims is to cut the negligence which causes injury. Sensible risk assessments can make people aware of potential risks and help prevent needless injury.

Negligence shatters lives. The Government must ensure that in its bid to dispel a myth, it does not lead the country into a culture of carelessness and injury.

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