



re: Letter 'Damages culture is out of control thanks to legal aid' (7 February 2011 *Daily Express*)

Sir,

Legal aid plays a vital role in providing access to justice for some of the most vulnerable victims of clinical negligence, such as babies born with brain damage because of medical errors, who have no other means to bring about a claim.

Plans to cut legal aid funding for clinical negligence cases, of which the total cost amounts to less than one per cent (£17m) of the overall legal aid budget (£2.2bn) should first examine the immeasurable value which it brings to society by providing access to justice for the needy and making the NHS accountable to those whose lives are shattered by its negligence.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Kitchener

Chief executive
Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)