



Re: MP's anger at £11,000 payout for scalded pupil (*Daily Telegraph* 8 June 2011)

Sir,

The idea that we have a so-called compensation culture has been dismissed over recent years as a myth by opinion-formers. Even Lord Young, asked to look into the issue by the Prime Minister, wrote in his report *Common Sense, Common Safety*, that the so-called compensation culture is "perception rather than reality".

The truth is that negligence can shatter lives. It is only right that victims of needless injury are allowed to pursue proper redress to help put their lives back together. The constant belittling of this right can ultimately dissuade the most vulnerable people from claiming the care and compensation they so badly need.

Lord Young also said that "it is right that people who have suffered an injustice through someone else's negligence should be able to claim redress. It is a basic tenet of law and one on which we all rely".

This important principle must always be remembered in any sensible debate about the needs of people who have been injured because of another person's negligence.

Yours faithfully,

Deborah Evans
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