



Re: 'Soft work' bias (*Bristol Evening Post* 19 August 2011)

Unfortunately Mr Gannaway is mistaken on several points.

Personal injury cases are very often complex, difficult and traumatic experiences for injured people. For example, in the last ten years fewer than half of clinical negligence claims have been successful according to the NHS Litigation Authority. Some industrial disease claimants cannot trace their former employers' insurers, and die before they and their families find the redress they badly need.

Government proposals to restrict no-win no-fee arrangements will make it even more difficult for an injured individual to seek damages to put his life back on track. Negligent defendants and their insurers, who have already accepted premiums, will get away with injuring workers, hospital patients, and members of the public.

I sympathise with Mr Gannaway's distaste for the 'market traders' near his home, but it is important to understand that these people are not solicitors. Solicitors are not permitted, with good reason, to tout for clients, whether on the street or over the telephone. And the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers is a not-for-profit organisation, not a trade union, whose members campaign for a fairer deal for people who are injured through the negligence of others.

What I find most disturbing is that such misunderstandings can lead to injured people being belittled for pursuing the fair redress to which they are entitled.

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