



Re: The £70,000 payout to young boy who caught his thumb in a door (*Belfast Telegraph* 24 August 2011)

It is difficult to see what evidence there is to support Seamus Searson's belief that "a mere two per cent of all compensation claims" in Northern Ireland are justified.

Claims for personal injury can only ever be brought when negligence is proven. A claim cannot be brought for an ordinary, everyday mishap. If a claim is without merit, there are checks and balances within the system which will prove it and the claim will fail.

Bumps and scrapes in the playground are a part of growing up, but children should be protected from needless injury. After all, this is why health and safety rules exist in the first place.

What is needed is for misunderstandings which surround the compensation system to be dispelled so that schools can operate without fear of litigation and children can enjoy their school years without being put at risk of needless injury.

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