



Letters to the editor  
Tyrone Courier & Dungannon News  
7 September 2011

Sir,

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

Claims for personal injury can only ever be brought when negligence is proven. Claims cannot be successful in cases of ordinary, unforeseeable accidents.

Figures and headlines do not give the full picture of an injury, and unfortunately generate misunderstanding among the public about the personal injury system.

The notion 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”.

What is needed is for myths 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 harm.

Yours sincerely,

Deborah Evans  
Chief executive  
Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)