



Re: Fixed fees to be 'renegotiated' after referral ban (*Lawgazette.co.uk* 28 September).

The MoJ seems to be suffering from amnesia in relation to the RTA portal negotiations.

APIL was closely involved in the negotiations and I can confirm categorically that the issue of referral fees had no part in the ultimate outcome. We will be raising this matter with the Ministry direct.

In fact, the figures were based on a combination of hourly rates and the time needed to deal with cases in the portal. The final figures were the result of an agreement between the parties, including, of course, the insurers.

The point that many solicitors don't even pay referral fees has already been made in an earlier response. What hasn't been mentioned is that, although still really in its early days, the RTA claims process is working well enough for insurers to be able to say they are already making savings on cases which go through the system. So the real question is: why aren't premiums coming down?