



Re: *Taxpayers face £15bn bill for NHS blunders* - Daily Mail, 7 February

Emma Boon, of the Taxpayers' Alliance, is completely wrong to blame last year's increase in clinical negligence claims on a so-called "compensation culture".

According to the NHS Litigation Authority's (NHSLA) annual report, the increase last year may in fact be explained by a change in the way claims are now recorded.

Indeed, the NHSLA's own statistics show that the number of claims the year before was broadly the same as ten years earlier. So, the recent increase appears to be a blip, not a trend.

Equally, the cost of claims can never be artificially inflated as a judge will examine those costs with a fine-tooth comb if the NHSLA ever believes they are too high.

'No-win, no-fee', it must always be remembered, provides people of ordinary means with access to justice if they do not qualify for legal aid.

But if the Government pushes ahead with its proposed cuts to legal aid and reforms of 'no-win, no-fee', injured patients, whose cases are complex, face being cut off from access to justice altogether.

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