



## **Regional newspapers – March 2012**

Sir,

By powering ahead with the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Bill, it is clear the Government is prepared to deny victims their right to pursue justice in favour of protecting insurers' profits.

An injured person would have to fund part of his case with the compensation needed to put his life back on track, if he can risk the cost at all. People don't ask to be injured. It cannot be right that the cost of pursuing much-needed compensation should be shifted from the wrongdoer onto the victim.

This Bill is now in its final stages in the House of Lords and, despite strong opposition, the Government juggernaut continues. A proposed alternative to the Bill, backed by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, the Law Society, and the Motor Accident Solicitors Society, would minimise the impact on injured people, reduce insurance premiums, and address many of the Government's concerns about compensation for personal injury claims.

Instead of using a sledgehammer to crack a nut, the Government should try listening to reason.

Deborah Evans

Chief Executive

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)