



Daily Express *A trip in the school playground can be a nice little earner* (5 August)

Only a quarter of people who have suffered a personal injury are likely to make a claim for compensation, according to YouGov survey results published last week. Government investigations have already found that the so-called 'compensation culture' is merely a perception, not a reality.

One reality is that the courts will not allow the payment of compensation for a spurious claim. A judge hears the full facts of a case, which anecdotes and headlines never, ever convey.

Furthermore, the law does not exist to provide a living for lawyers any more than diseases serve to provide employment for doctors. The legal profession has been subjected to huge reforms during this Government and fees have been slashed to the bone. For example, cases against local authorities where the value of the claim is estimated to be up to £25,000 are subjected to a streamlined, electronic process in which costs are fixed stage-by-stage.

What is really needed is the promotion of a greater understanding of the difference between a mishap and negligence, and a clampdown on allowing myths to generate. The children who successfully claimed compensation for their injuries were needlessly injured when someone did not take, or could not be bothered to take, proper care of them - and that negligence was proven.

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