

21 March 2016

The Times

RE: Public hit by 12 m daily nuisance calls from ambulance chasers

Banning cold calls and spam texts for personal injury claims would curb fraud and restore some credibility to the claims industry. The practice by claims management companies is widely hated by the man on the street and encourages a dishonest and impressionable few to make claims for injuries they do not have.

But George Osborne's plan to remove the right to compensation for pain and suffering is using a sledgehammer to crack a nut and shows a callous indifference to people with genuine injuries. There are practical solutions to tackling fraud and reducing the number of claims without abolishing the fundamental right to recompense, enshrined in our law for well over a century.

Furthermore, the only figures which should be relied upon about the level of whiplash claims are from the Government's Compensation Recovery Unit, which states that the number of claims has fallen by 34 per cent since 2010/11.

Jonathan Wheeler

President

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)