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INSURERS AND CLAIMANT LAWYERS LAUNCH NEW PERSONAL INJURY MULTI TRACK CODE PILOT

Both sides of the personal injury divide have joined forces to launch a new pilot code of behaviour aimed at resolving higher value cases more effectively.

Following discussions between FOIL, APIL, the Motor Insurers Bureau, RBSI, AXA, Zurich and Norwich Union, agreement has been reached on a multi track code, aimed at personal injury cases above £250,000. Claimant lawyers and insurers said the aim of the pilot, which will be subject to review, is to hopefully build "trust and transparency."

Denise Kitchener, chief executive of APIL, said that throughout the discussions both sides had shown great commitment to producing a code which focuses on co-operative behaviour.

"I am heartened that after many long discussions, we have reached an agreement with insurers which will hopefully develop greater co-operation between both sides when dealing with high value cases," she said.

Key objectives of the code include regular bilateral case reviews; resolution of liability as early as possible; avoidance of duplication of effort and evidence to reduce contentious costs; prompt consideration of interim payments and, where appropriate, agreement of a care regime, accommodation and equipment at the earliest opportunity.

Andrew Underwood, past president of FOIL and Chair of the FOIL Rules Special Interest Group, applauded the commitment by all those involved in reaching this stage. The pilot now gives an opportunity to more participants to become involved and bring their ideas and energy to the process, he said.

“The agreement is an important staging post in the process providing a platform for future change through evidence and experience by all sides demonstrating the benefits to be achieved through collaboration and dialogue”.

The pilot scheme will be launched in the spring.

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Notes to editors:

- Copies of the multi track code are available on request.
- FOIL exists to provide a forum for the exchange of information between lawyers acting predominantly or exclusively for insurance clients (except legal expenses insurers) either practicing within firms of solicitors, as barristers or as in-house lawyers for insurers or for self-insurers. FOIL is also an active lobbying body on matters concerning insurance law.

For further information from FOIL or to speak to Andrew Underwood about the initiative, please contact: Fred Banning, Kysen PR, 0207 462 8405, fred@kysenpr.co.uk

- APIL was established in 1990 by a group of lawyers working on behalf of personal injury victims, and now has more than 5,000 members. APIL

campaigns for improvements in the law to help people who are injured or become ill through no fault of their own.

**For further information contact Lisa Wardle, press & PR officer, APIL, t: 0115 9388715,
email: lisa.wardle@apil.org.uk**