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TOUGHER NEGLIGENCE TEST COULD MEAN PUBLIC BODIES 'OFF THE HOOK'

A proposal which means public bodies could get away with negligence has met with strong opposition from lawyers acting for injured people.

The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) has said the Law Commission proposal, which will make proving negligence against public bodies such the police or local authorities much tougher, will seriously undermine injured peoples' right to compensation.

"There is absolutely no justification for public bodies to be subject to a different law to everyone else," said APIL president Amanda Stevens. "It is only right that those who cause negligence are held accountable, regardless of who they are and who they work for."

APIL has argued vehemently with the Law Commission's reasoning that liability against public bodies is on the increase.

"The Law Commission has provided no real evidence to justify why the law should be reformed in this way," she said. "Public bodies should be held accountable for negligence in the same way as any other negligent business or individual."

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Notes to editors:

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