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VICTIMS “LET DOWN” BY PERSONAL INJURY SYSTEMS

Too many injured people are let down by bureaucracy, gaps in the compensation process and by weak and non-existent regulation, the president of Association of Personal Injury Lawyers will say this week.

Addressing a distinguished audience at the association’s annual President’s Dinner event, Amanda Stevens will say she is proud to head an organisation which puts people before the pursuit of the “pure financial gain” which has led “so many in the city to the brink of collapse.”

But her passion for the law makes its failings all the more deplorable. She will say the system is letting down a long list of injured people including workers, patients, those who fall prey to insurers’ high pressure tactics, and victims of crime.

And Amanda will call on the Secretary of State for Justice, Jack Straw, to address the failings of the criminal injuries compensation scheme. “He has spoken many times of his concern for victims of crime,” she will say. “While the purpose of the scheme is admirable, it is complicated and drawn out, with only one third of crime victims actually aware they can claim compensation.”

The speech will be delivered on Thursday, 5 February in London.

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Note to editors:

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A full copy of the speech will be available on Friday, 6 February, 2009