



NEW INITIATIVE PUTS 'PEOPLE FIRST'

Lawyers have today (26 March) joined forces with consumer champions to launch a new initiative to support injured people.

PEOPLE First - launched by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) - will provide information, support and guidance to victims of negligence, through a new resource comprising easy to understand fact sheets and a new website. Amanda Stevens, president of APIL, said PEOPLE First will assist victims of negligence when they are at their most vulnerable.

“PEOPLE First draws together and enhances all the work APIL does which is aimed at consumers, and puts it in a logical, easy format for people to understand.

“Our fact sheets, for example, will offer advice on issues such as what to do after an injury at work or hospital, who to contact after an injury, how to find rehabilitation, who to turn to after an injury and how to navigate the minefield of insurance small print.”

Consumer champion and television presenter, Lynn Faulds Wood, said it was vital that injured people are given the right kind of guidance when they are at their most vulnerable.

“Having spent much of my professional life campaigning on behalf of consumers, I am delighted to support APIL’s new initiative which really aims to help people if they have suffered personal injury,” she said.

PEOPLE First will be guided by a new, independent consumer panel which has so far received support from former chair of the Health and Safety Commission, Sir Bill Callaghan; Neal Stone of the British Safety Council, and Kate Beaumont of the National Patient Safety Agency.

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Note to editors:

Additional supporting quotes for PEOPLE First:

Sir Bill Callaghan, former chair of the Health and Safety Commission: “My working life at the TUC and the Health and Safety Commission has been devoted to protecting people at work and I am therefore delighted to join APIL’s People First Advisory Group.”

Neal Stone, British Safety Council: “APIL’s PEOPLE First programme will use APIL members’ experience to eliminate injury and ill-health; improve the advice and guidance available to workers who have suffered injury or ill-health, and raise awareness of their rights and responsibilities. It will make an important contribution in creating a better understanding of the protection afforded to workers by health and safety law, and ultimately better health and safety. We look forward to working with APIL to take this important initiative forward.”

- APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers) is a not-for-profit organisation, whose members are dedicated to campaigning for improvements in the law to help people who are injured or become ill through no fault of their own.

For more information, contact APIL’s press & PR officer, Lisa Wardle, t: 0115 9388715, or email: lisa.wardle@apil.org.uk