



## **APIL PRESIDENT 'FRUSTRATED' BY GOVERNMENT DELAYS ON DAMAGES**

APIL's outgoing president has fired a broadside at the Ministry of Justice for dragging its feet on damages reform, two years after the Government launched a major consultation on the issue.

The Law on Damages was published on 4 May 2007 and a formal response from the Government is still awaited.

Amanda Stevens, who relinquishes her presidency of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) next week said the Government's inaction on damages reform had been the most frustrating aspect of her tenure.

"There was much in the paper which we supported and welcomed, such as discussion about claims for psychiatric illness," she said. "We also made robust arguments in relation to other issues about which I personally feel very passionate. Not least of these is the fact that damages for pain, suffering and loss of amenity need to be increased in line with recommendations made by the Law Commission a decade ago.

"And if a claimant is so badly injured that he needs to purchase new accommodation or alter his current accommodation, the negligent party who caused the injury should simply provide the funds to allow the claimant to do this," she went on.

"These issues need to be addressed, and I find it unacceptable that this golden opportunity for the Government to grasp the nettle and really do something worthwhile for injured people, has effectively been shelved for so long."

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Note to editors:

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