



July 2009

GOVERNMENT SIDELINING INJURED PEOPLE IN RUSH TO CHANGE LAW

Government plans to make changes to the Animals Act “via the back door” have been criticised by lawyers.

According to John McQuater, president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) the proposed amendment to the Act will make the law less certain and is likely to make it more difficult for anyone injured by an animal to receive compensation, as the Government has sided with animal keepers, rather than the people they injure.

“Whether it is a dog bite which leaves a child disfigured, or injuries caused by a horse on the road, there will be less protection for victims,” said John. “The fact that the Government is making changes through the back door with little time for parliamentary debate is totally unacceptable.”

“Changing what is now a well established law may result in no compensation being received by injured people,” he said, “and no compensation means more injured people will be dependant on the taxpayer to pay for their care and treatment.”

He added: “It just doesn’t make sense and I urge the Government to think twice about this proposal.”

-ends-



Note to editors:

- APIL has responded to DEFRA's consultation on changes to the Animals Act 1971. APIL's full response can be viewed here:
<http://files.apil.org.uk/pdf/ConsultationDocuments/1576.pdf>
- 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 further contact: Lisa Wardle, Press & PR Officer, t: 0115 9388715, or Jane Hartwell, Assistant Press & PR Officer, t: 0115 9388702