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## EMBRACE CHALLENGE IN CRITICAL YEAR AHEAD, SAYS NEW APIL PRESIDENT

The year ahead will be “critical” for personal injury lawyers and their clients, according to the new president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).

In his inaugural speech at the association’s 20th anniversary conference this week, Muiris Lyons will air frank views about key issues including Lord Justice Jackson’s review of civil litigation costs, and the new RTA claims process. And he will tell APIL members that although they face many challenges, “they are also opportunities to shape and influence the debate for our clients’ benefit.”

Lyons will say it is clear that Jackson’s report will set the agenda for the personal injury world over the next 18 months. He will say that although the report is impressive in terms of scope and analysis, it is, in Jackson’s own words, “simply the view of one judge.” Lyons will tell delegates that the proposals, if implemented, would have a “significant adverse effect on those who are most seriously injured.”

“APIL wants to ensure that those who are negligently injured are not discouraged from making a claim and that they do not receive a shortfall in their damages,” he will say.

Speaking about the new RTA claims process, Lyons will remind delegates that when Lord Falconer addressed APIL members at a conference in 2007, he said that although the small claims court limit would not be increased, ‘doing nothing was not an option.’

“It [the new claims process] was necessary and required a huge commitment of time and effort to reach an industry consensus which provides a simpler, quicker and cheaper way of processing perhaps 75 per cent of all personal injury claims,” Lyons will say.

“We cannot afford for the scheme to fail, because – and I remind you of the words of Lord Falconer - doing nothing is not an option. I firmly believe the starting point is what is in the best interests of the injured person, not their lawyers. We have to take the initiative on these issues and work tirelessly and ceaselessly to improve the process.



"If we do not, then the consequences for our clients are potentially the complete denial of their access to fair and proper compensation."

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Note to editors:

- APIL's 20th anniversary conference takes place on 22 and 23 April, at The Celtic Manor Resort, Newport, South Wales
- A full copy of the speech will be available on Thursday, 22 April. Contact Lisa Wardle, email: [lisa.wardle@apil.org.uk](mailto:lisa.wardle@apil.org.uk)
- 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.
- Further information can also be found at the organisation's website - [www.apil.org.uk](http://www.apil.org.uk).