



May 2010

## HAIRDRESSING INJURIES HIGHLIGHT NEED FOR INDUSTRY REGULATION

Calls for the Government to clamp down on unqualified or incompetent hairdressers were renewed this week, after a survey revealed lawyers in the East Midlands have dealt with more than 30 salon-related injury cases in the past twelve months.

The region came out second worst in a nationwide survey carried out by national campaigning group APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers) which aimed to find out how many people are being injured in salons. The group is campaigning for regulation to be introduced so that all practicing hairdressers must be properly qualified. As there is currently no industry regulation in place, anyone can pick up a pair of scissors and call themselves a hairdresser.

Denise Kitchener, APIL's chief executive, said that regulation would ensure customers are in the hands of qualified professionals who are working to required high standards of health and safety.

"While there are many highly qualified, excellent stylists out there, we are very concerned about the number of people who are being injured at the hands of unqualified or incompetent hairdressers," she said. "People do not realise the industry is unregulated, and wouldn't dream of asking about a stylist's credentials, but the fact is anyone can call themselves a hairdresser because there is no law to stop them."

APIL asked lawyers across the country to report how many cases they had dealt with in which someone had been injured at the hairdressers, in the last twelve months.

"34 cases in just 12 months, in the East Midlands alone, is a shocking figure" said Denise. "We see the devastation caused by careless stylists – people have suffered burns, scarring, and total hair loss. Lives are turned upside down, because the psychological effects can affect work, personal relationships and self confidence."

ends-



Note to editors:

- For more information, contact Lisa Wardle, Press & PR Officer, APIL, t: 0115 9388715, or Jane Hartwell, Assistant press & PR Officer, t: 0115 9388702.
- Regional spokesmen are available in some areas. Please contact the APIL press office on the details above.
- 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).