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## DAMAGES REFORM SLIPS OFF POLITICAL AGENDA

Proposals aired only three months ago to reform the law on damages have been dropped from the new Government's agenda, the Queen's Speech revealed today.

Despite consultation in February this year, the Government's Draft Civil Law Reform Bill, which has been the only sign in years that the issue of damages for negligence was on the Government's radar, was absent from the speech.

Muiris Lyons, president of the Association of Personal Injury lawyers (APIL), said the new Government's failure to commit to damages reform was a blow for injured people.

"The Draft Civil Law Reform Bill had a lot of holes in it but it was, at least, a starting point for long overdue reform to the damages system in England and Wales," he said. "It is bitterly disappointing that nothing will be done now until at least November, as it is injured people who will bear the brunt of any further failure to keep the law on damages up to date."

APIL has previously criticised the Government for failing to act on Law Commission recommendations from as far back as 1999, which said general damages in most cases should be increased by at least 50 per cent.

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- 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.
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- Further information can also be found at the organisation's website - [www.apil.org.uk](http://www.apil.org.uk).