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Lord Young of Graffham's health and safety review

Response from the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)

Lord Young of Graffham's widely-trailed report on health and safety legislation appears to threaten changes to the system which will result in a culture of carelessness and injury.

He is likely to address the Conservative Party conference this weekend about his proposals, due to be published later this month, and is expected to call for such a wide-ranging relaxation of health and safety law that the most vulnerable in our society will be at greater risk of pointless, avoidable injury.

Muiris Lyons, president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) said: "In his bid to address the myth of a so-called 'compensation culture' in this country, Lord Young is in real danger of turning the myth into a reality by creating a situation in which people will not be properly protected from the irresponsibility of those who cause injuries through their own negligence.

"What is needed now is for this Government to take the lead in stopping misplaced hysteria about the compensation system by fostering sensible debate and educating people about how the system actually works," he went on.

"Accidents happen. No-one can be blamed for them and no-one can be subject to litigation because of them. But negligence is unacceptable, and those who cause needless injury should be held accountable and made to provide the redress needed to help injured people get their lives back on track."

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