



15 October 2010

## Response to Lord Young report: Common Sense Common Safety

Statement from Muiris Lyons, President, Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL):

“Lord Young has missed a critical opportunity to take action to dispel the compensation culture myth.

We are delighted that he recognises the so-called ‘compensation culture’ is a perception and not reality. But, in a report littered with references to ‘fear’ and ‘perception’, he has offered little by way of clarification and education, recommending instead the extension of a new road traffic accident scheme which, although underway, is still in its infancy and beset with technical teething problems.

We have been asking the Government for years to take up the challenge of the Better Regulation Task Force to resist talking about the ‘compensation culture’ as doing so only perpetuates the problem. What is needed is education so people understand that they cannot be sued for any old accident, but that everyone has a responsibility to avoid the negligence which leads to needless injury which can shatter people’s lives.

Lord Young’s recommendations about advertising in personal injury will help with this, but they do not go nearly far enough.

He also makes the classic error of believing a low value claim is simple when, in fact, that is often far from the truth, especially in workplace and medical claims.

We need an efficient compensation process which delivers fair compensation to people injured through no fault of their own. The road traffic scheme, which applies to 75 per cent of all personal injury claims, may still do that, but it is far too early to tell.”

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Notes to editors:

- For more information or a full copy of APIL's response, please contact Chris Birkle, press and PR officer, t: 0115 938 8715, e: [chris.birkle@apil.org.uk](mailto:chris.birkle@apil.org.uk), or Jane Hartwell, assistant press and PR officer, t: 0115 938 8702, e: [jane.hartwell@apil.org.uk](mailto:jane.hartwell@apil.org.uk).
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