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Patients to be sidelined as NHS regulations 'rushed' through?

A scheme which would allow the NHS in Wales to be the "judge and jury" of its own blunders must not be rushed through at the expense of injured patients, says a not-for-profit campaign group.

The Welsh Assembly Government is set to consider today (8 March) whether to introduce a scheme which would give the NHS in Wales the power to investigate its own medical errors and decide whether it was at fault. The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) says this power represents a serious conflict of interest.

"Politicians are set to make a decision on a matter of paramount importance to the wellbeing of injured patients," said APIL president Muiris Lyons. "And our members are telling us they are still concerned that there is little clarity about how the proposed system would give injured patients the proper redress they so desperately need.

"Our members are not even clear, at this late stage, about how the compensation for patients within the scheme will be calculated or how the resources will be found to make sure staff are able to handle these cases," he added.

"We must have clarity before any decision is made because, once changes come into effect, it will be too late to help the most vulnerable injured patients."

-Ends-

Note to editors:

- A Welsh speaking interviewee is available upon request.
- 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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