



21 September 2011

‘REGULATION HELPS ENSURE CHILDREN’S SAFETY’

Children will be exposed to greater risk of harm if important safety measures for adventure activities are watered down, a not-for-profit campaign group has warned.

The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) spoke out after submitting a response to the Health and Safety Executive’s (HSE) consultation on plans to replace the regulation of adventure activities with a voluntary code of practice.

“When we look back on the tragedy of Lyme Bay in 1993, it is difficult to see how abolishing the regulations for adventure activities can be considered the right thing to do,” said APIL president David Bott.

“If not controlled properly, adventure activities can be dangerous, and, in the worst case scenario, result in the loss of life.

“Instead of diluting the measures which help protect children and vulnerable adults, the HSE should develop the licensing regime to cover a wider range of activities to help prevent other avoidable injury.”

The proposed abolition of the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority was recommended by Lord Young of Graffham, who, in his report *Common Sense, Common Safety*, referred to the licensing regime as an unnecessary “cost and burden on business”.

Mr Bott said: “Proper regulation of adventure activities is important and necessary to prevent children from harm.

“Far from being an unnecessary burden, a licence shows that a provider has been inspected and is operating to acceptable safety standards.



“A ‘light touch’ code of practice will only provide people with a limited assurance that proper safety measures have been taken

“Parents and carers need to feel confident in the knowledge that an activity provider is credible and will not put their children at an unnecessary risk of harm.”

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

- The HSE’s consultation, the proposed replacement for the licensing regime for adventure activities established under the Activity Centres (Young Persons’ Safety) Act 1995 in England, closes today (21 September 2011).
- 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.
- For more information please contact Chris Birkle, press and communications officer, t: 0115 943 5409, e: chris.birkle@apil.org.uk, or Jane Hartwell, assistant press and communications officer, t: 0115 943 5416, e: jane.hartwell@apil.org.uk.
- Visit the association’s website at www.apil.org.uk.