



3 November 2011

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON 'NO WIN NO FEE' AN "UTTER DISGRACE"

A national campaign group has branded a truncated parliamentary debate an "insult to injured people".

The not-for-profit Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) has criticised the lack of parliamentary time allowed to discuss 'no-win, no-fee' proposals in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Bill, during report stage.

"Is 20 minutes of discussion all injured people are worth?" asked Deborah Evans, chief executive of APIL.

"These proposals risk cutting off genuine claimants from their right to full and fair redress. It is an utter disgrace that only around two per cent of parliamentary time during this report stage has been devoted to examining the very serious impact these proposals will have on people whose lives have been shattered at the hands of others."

The proposals, which were debated in the House of Commons yesterday (2 November) will change 'no win no fee' in such a way that the damages of many innocent injury victims will be unfairly reduced. Many serious and complex cases won't be brought at all.

Deborah continued: "We know of heart-breaking cases*, such as people who have been catastrophically injured by medical blunders or who have contracted asbestos-related disease, who would never be able to obtain the damages they desperately need under these proposals.

"There are widespread, thoroughly justified and very serious concerns about this Bill and I am extremely worried that proposals are being railroaded through Parliament without proper consideration about the consequences for vulnerable people.



“The Government must stop this runaway juggernaut now, and start to take these concerns seriously.”

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

- For further information, case studies* and interviews please contact the APIL press office on 0115 943 5409/0115 943 5416.
- 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.
- Visit the association’s website at www.apil.org.uk.
- Follow APIL on Twitter here