

**28 November 2011**

### **‘Confusion’ over future of safety warnings**

Children could be exposed to unnecessary risk if important safety warnings are no longer shared with adventure activity groups.

Not-for-profit Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) has called for clarity about how coroner reports will continue to be circulated if the adventure activities regulator is axed.

The issue came under the spotlight after a coroner asked the Adventure Activities Licensing Service (AALS) to issue guidance to emphasise the importance of risk assessments following a drowning case.

“Who is going to pick up the pieces if the Adventure Activities Licensing Service (AALS) has been disbanded?” asked APIL president David Bott.

“No-one knows how these important coroner reports will be circulated. Coroners expect lessons to be learned. But who is going to teach the lessons if the AALS has gone?”

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is yet to provide a response to its consultation on proposals to replace the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) with a voluntary code of practice.



“When we consider the tragedy of Lyme Bay in 1993, there is no excuse for potentially life-saving information, which has been issued by a coroner in the interests of public safety, to not be communicated to the people who need it,” added Mr Bott.

“A mother whose child died in the tragedy said recently that she is appalled by proposals to abolish the AALA. It is also appalling that no plans have been drawn up to help activity providers prevent other deaths.”

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Notes for editors:

- The AALS informs activity providers of the latest coroner reports in a variety of ways. These include verbal briefings during inspections, articles being published in trade magazines and details being published on the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) website.
- For more information, please contact the APIL press office on 0115 943 5409 or 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.
- Further information can be found at [www.apil.org.uk](http://www.apil.org.uk).