

30 January 2012

Access to justice warning over criminal injuries compensation reforms

Ken Clarke's proposals to restrict payments to crime victims with less severe injuries are a "gross injustice", a not-for-profit campaign group has warned.

"Crime victims with less serious but still significant injuries must be allowed to claim full and fair redress like anyone else," said David Bott, president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).

"These proposals risk cutting genuine claimants off from the compensation they need and deserve."

Crime victim Mark Fox, 32, from Hartlepool, was given £2,000 in compensation last year after he was randomly attacked in the street by "two or three lads". Under these proposals he wouldn't get a penny.

The self-employed father-of-one had to use crutches for three weeks because his knee ligaments were torn. He was also left with a black eye and bruises to his chest and back.

Mark, who installs CCTV systems and other security devices for a living, said of the proposals: "I think it's completely unfair, especially for people like me who are self-employed with no way to replace the money that I had lost.

"I was not able to work for a month. It was just a case of struggling by. Cases like my own are perfectly justified to receive compensation. It makes a massive difference."



Mr Bott said: “Falling victim to a crime can be a harrowing experience, regardless of the level of injury.

“It’s important, in any caring and responsible society, that injured victims are able to claim the redress they need to help put their shattered lives back together.”

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

- For more information, contact the APIL press office on 0115 943 5409, 0115 943 5416 or out of hours on 07808 786 623.
- 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 Visit the association’s website at www.apil.org.uk.