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Government urged to consider full picture in latest legal reforms

Introducing further change to a civil justice system which is already in the throes of a series of major reforms would be short-sighted, personal injury lawyers said today.

“This year lawyers and the injured people they represent have faced more changes in a short space of time than ever before,” said David Bott, president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).

“So we welcome the fact that the Government is going to consult further on its plans to extend the streamlined claims process and consider the timing of any future changes.

“It’s critical that the Government fully considers the combined impact of proposed changes to the no win, no fee system, the proposed end of legal aid, the introduction of alternative business structures and other planned reforms on injured people.

“Policymakers need to be aware that extending the current system for road traffic accident cases, when that system still has serious technical and administrative flaws, will inevitably mean a further tilting of the playing field away from genuinely injured individuals in favour of big businesses and insurance companies, who are, actually, quite capable of looking after themselves.

“The Government must avoid over-focussing on needlework and forgetting the full tapestry. Too much change, too quickly, would be reckless, and we hope that, in its ongoing



consultation, the Government gets its priorities right and puts the needs of injured people first.”

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Notes to editors:

- 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 the APIL press office on 0115 943 5409 or 0115 943 5416.
- Visit the association’s website at www.apil.org.uk.