



15 March 2012

Campaigners issue justice warning despite LASPO Bill exemptions

A decision by the House of Lords to exempt victims of industrial disease from the proposals for 'no-win, no-fee' in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill has been welcomed by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).

"This is obviously good news for victims of industrial disease and it is imperative that the Government does not overturn these important amendments when the debate returns to the House of Commons," said Deborah Evans, APIL chief executive.

"It is still, however, a devastating blow for justice that the same degree of consideration was not given to the proposals for other innocent victims of injury, whose lives may also have been shattered through no fault of their own.

"Not only will many genuine claimants face being denied access to justice altogether, but those people who are still able to claim will face having their damages cut.

"As a just and moral society, we have a duty to ensure that vulnerable people are properly protected. But the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill is a backwards step in that regard.



“The litmus test will be in years to come, when it can be expected that injured people who have been denied access to justice will have to rely on the state to cater for their needs, while the wrongdoers who cause needless injury will be even less accountable.”

-Ends-

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.