

2 July 2012

Compensation cuts will deny access to justice for crime victims

Ken Clarke's decision to end compensation payments for some crime victims has been branded "unwarranted, unfair and unjust" by a not-for-profit campaign group.

The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) criticised the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) after it confirmed today that it would end compensation payments for claims below £2,500 and significantly reduce payments for claims below £11,000.

"This decision goes against the view held for decades by successive Governments that victims of violent crime deserve more than just an apology," said APIL chief executive Deborah Evans.

"People with claims below £2,500 may have suffered injuries, such as permanent scarring, which may have a detrimental impact upon their lives.

"Equally, a victim with a claim below £11,000 could have an injury as serious as a collapsed lung or a broken arm or a leg, and may need to take a significant amount of time off work in order to recover from it.

"Not only do injured victims of crime need proper financial redress to help them get back on their feet, but they need to know that the injustice which has been done to them has been properly recognised by society.

"But by removing the right to redress for some victims of crime, the Government is effectively treating them as second class citizens."



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Notes for 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 Chris Birkle, press and communications officer, t: 0115 943 5409, e: chris.birkle@apil.org.uk, or Jane Hartwell, press and communications officer, t: 0115 943 5416, e: jane.hartwell@apil.org.uk
- Visit the association's website at www.apil.org.uk
- Follow us on Twitter: @APIL