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Peers 'must reject' plans to cut compensation for crime victims

Campaigners have called on members of the House of Lords to reject “unjust” proposals to slash compensation payments for victims of crime.

Ahead of a key debate tomorrow, the not-for-profit Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) says implementation of the proposals, which include plans to axe payments for claims below £2,500 and reduce payments for claims below £11,000, would have a detrimental impact upon the lives of innocent people.

“Policymakers need to understand that if they cut compensation payments for victims of crime, they will cut their access to justice,” said APIL president Karl Tonks.

“Falling victim to a violent crime is a harrowing experience for an innocent individual. It’s only fair that an injured person is provided with the redress he needs to get back on his feet.”

The proposals also include plans to reduce payments for loss of earnings for people who are unable to work again, or who only have a limited capacity to do so.

Currently, a sum is awarded to reflect what an injured claimant would have been able to earn during his lifetime. But the Government wants to limit this to a level of earnings equivalent to statutory sick pay.



“A compensation payment based on statutory sick pay would be completely insufficient for a victim who’s been so badly harmed that he can’t work,” Mr Tonks went on.

“Seriously injured people will inevitably suffer financial hardship if this proposal is implemented, as many of them need redress to help meet their daily living expenses.

“In a just and modern society, we need to ensure that people whose lives have been devastated by crime are supported and compensated properly.”

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Notes for editors:

- 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