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Warning as Parliament cuts compensation for crime victims

Access to justice will be dealt a “serious blow” today when Parliament is expected to rubberstamp proposals to cut compensation payments for injured victims of crime.

Not-for-profit campaigners the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) have warned that the plans to end payments for claims below £2,500 and significantly reduce payments for claims below £11,000 - set to be passed by a House of Commons committee - will cause “irrevocable damage to our justice system”.

“We’re facing a future in which many innocent victims of crime will be denied access to the compensation which they may badly need,” said APIL president Karl Tonks.

“Although we live in straitened times, it’s vital that people are properly protected and given the support they need to get back on their feet.

“Falling victim to a violent crime can be a particularly traumatic experience and people can suffer financial hardship if they are unable to return to work immediately.

“But not only do victims need proper redress to help meet their daily living expenses while they are recovering, they also need to know that the injustice which has been done to them is properly recognised by society.

“The Government, in all its reforms of civil justice, needs to acknowledge that to cut an injured person’s compensation is to cut his access to justice.”



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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.
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