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Government to push through crime victim compensation cuts

Campaigners have attacked the Government for refusing to amend its ill thought through proposals to cut compensation payments for victims of crime.

Despite a promise to reconsider the proposals and bring them back “in a better form”, they remain unchanged and are set to go before a committee tomorrow (Thursday 1 November).

“It beggars belief that the Government has not amended the very proposals which attracted widespread criticism from Conservative and Labour MPs, as well as vulnerable victims of crime,” said Karl Tonks, president of the not-for-profit Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).

“It’s also very disappointing that the Government has appointed a large number of loyal Conservatives to the committee who are expected to back the Government’s position.

“The impression this gives is that the Government wants to push these unpopular cuts through, regardless of what the public or some other members of the Government think.”

The proposals, if implemented, will end payments for claims below £2,500 and significantly reduce payments for claims below £11,000. Payments for loss of future earnings, which currently reflect what a person would have been able to earn during his lifetime, will also be limited to an amount equivalent to statutory sick pay under the proposed scheme.

“It’s important that victims of violent crime are given financial redress to help them get back to their feet, particularly if they are unable to return to work,” Karl went on.



“Not only does compensation help them meet their daily living expenses, but it also provides the peace of mind that the injustice which has been done to them is recognised by society.

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

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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, 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