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## **AIR CRASH VICTIMS – NO COMPENSATION FOR PYSCHIATRIC INJURY**

A new law which comes into force today (28 June) means air passengers will not be able to claim compensation for psychiatric injuries.

Cardiff based lawyer Mark Harvey, secretary of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL), said it was “ludicrous” that victims of train crashes can be compensated for such injuries, while people who suffer the same injuries on a plane, cannot.

“It is utterly wrong that my clients from the Ladbroke Grove and Southall train crashes can be compensated for psychiatric injury, but my clients from, for example, the Gerona air crash, are left unable to claim anything for the trauma and suffering they endured.

Disaster struck in 1998 when the Britannia Airways flight to Gerona, which was carrying 236 passengers from Cardiff, veered off the runway at Gerona airport. Fifty people needed hospital treatment, and more than 140 of the Welsh passengers made compensation claims for injuries and stress.

The new law is part of the Montreal Convention – an international agreement ratified by more than 40 countries, including all those in the European Union.

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“The Montreal Convention will offer better compensation for what’s known as ‘bodily injuries’” said Mark. “But psychiatric injury, which can be caused by a crash landing, for example, will simply not be recognised.”

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