

CALL FOR END TO 'PROFIT BEFORE SAFETY' MENTALITY

Unsafe workplaces and bosses who put profit before safety may be a thing of the past, if a new proposal goes ahead.

According to leading health and safety lawyers, a recommendation to double the number of Health and Safety Executive inspectors could help to drag many workplaces out of the dark ages and into a culture of safety – helping to ensure people go to work and return home unharmed.

Colin Ettinger, president of the 5000-strong Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) has welcomed the recommendation from the House of Commons Work and Pensions select committee, and says it could help to stamp out negligence in the workplace.

“This move would really help to propel us into a proper safety culture in the workplace,” he said. “Too often we hear about bosses who put safety at the bottom of their agenda and don’t give a damn about the safety of their employees because pound signs get in the way.

“Inspectors are the front line of the battle to ensure company bosses comply with the law and fulfil their health and safety responsibilities to their employees.”

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APIL has been saying for years that breaching health and safety regulations must be taken more seriously, and that proper investment in inspection and enforcement is crucial.

“It is the only way that vulnerable workers are to be properly protected from employers who put profits before safety,” he said. “We have the laws we need to protect people – what we need now is a major offensive to make sure they work.”

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