

August 2004

AP 261

NO JUSTICE FOR INJURY VICTIMS IF NEW PROPOSAL GOES AHEAD

Thousands of accident victims may be left out of pocket or unable to claim any compensation for their injuries, if a new recommendation is given the green light.

Increasing the limit from £1000 to £5000 for personal injury claims which go through the small claims court - a proposal made by independent advisory group, the Better Regulation Task Force – will be a disaster for those injured through someone else's negligence, warns the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)

“An injured person whose claim for compensation is valued at £1000 or less, has to stand up in court and represent himself, or pay for legal representation out of his own pocket, when he will often not be able to afford it,” said APIL president Colin Ettinger.

“It cannot be right that someone who is not legally trained, is expected to put together a personal injury claim, gather medical reports and work out how much compensation they are entitled to,” said Colin. “It is bad enough for those with a claim of up to £1000, but if the limit is increased to £5000, thousands of people – many of who will be struggling with extremely serious injuries, may find bringing a claim against the person or company who injured them practically impossible.”

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APIL believes that because of the complexities and costs involved in bringing a claim, many injured people will ultimately have to rely on the state to support them through their injuries instead.

“Why would someone who is already traumatised put themselves through further distress when they have little or no chance of getting access to justice? The Government must consider the impact this move will have on innocent victims, before making a decision,” said Colin.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs is due to respond to the Better Regulation Task Forces’ recommendations on behalf of the Government, within the next few weeks.

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