

24 August, 2004

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TORY PARTY PLANS “HYSTERICAL”

This week’s proposals by the Conservative party to remove an injured person’s right to claim compensation are groundless and totally unjust, according to a leading lawyers group.

Speaking on behalf of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL), president Colin Ettinger said Shadow Home Secretary David Davis’ comments were irrational, and only helped to fuel unnecessary fear of litigation.

“These proposals are based on hysterical assumption, not fact,” said Ettinger. “The only truly independent research available shows that claims for compensation have decreased by almost ten per cent* in the last year – this is not evidence of a compensation culture. Taking away people’s right to make a claim after they have been injured through another’s negligence is nothing more than a knee-jerk reaction which bears no thought for the injured person.”

Conservative leaders suggested teachers and schools should be exempt from claims – a proposal which, says Ettinger, could push health and safety to the bottom of the agenda.

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“Someone who injures another through sheer negligence must be held accountable,” he said. “This should apply in all walks of life, whether it be a doctor, a teacher or an employer. Allowing people to get away with it is wholly unacceptable.”

And Ettinger slammed the proposals for “magnifying the misconception that people can sue for any old mishap.”

“This notion is utter nonsense,” he said. “Compensation is only awarded when negligence can be proved – no one receives compensation for an avoidable accident in which no one is to blame.

”Anyone claiming compensation must be able to demonstrate their injuries, and any financial loss they suffered as a result of the injury, for example, loss of earnings. Compensation is not a bonus or lottery win.”

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Note to editors: * Figures obtained from the Government’s Compensation Recovery Unit (CRU) to which insurers notify claims. For further statistics or information, please contact:

Lorraine Gwinnutt
Head of Legal & Public Affairs
APIL
11 Castle Quay
Nottingham
NG7 1FW
Tel: 0115 958 0585
Fax: 0115 924 3485
email: lorraine@apil.com

or

Lisa Wardle
Press & PR Officer
APIL
Tel: 0115 958 0585
Fax: 0115 924 3485
email: lisa@apil.com