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CALL TO NAME AND SHAME ERRANT COMPANY BOSSES

Company bosses who ignore health and safety rules should be named and shamed and placed on a publicly available 'blacklist', a leading safety organisation has warned.

Responding to a recent Health and Safety Executive (HSE) consultation, the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) said employers may think twice about breaching safety rules if it means their companies' reputation could be publicly tarnished.

Allan Gore QC, president of the 5,000-strong organisation, said companies with good health and safety records should in turn be rewarded, and said a publicly available 'name and praise' list would give credit to employers who put workers' safety high on their agenda. Gore said safety-conscious bosses should also be rewarded with cheaper insurance premiums.

"APIL firmly believes that employers with good health and safety records – those who genuinely take care and invest in the well-being of their staff – should be rewarded with lower insurance premiums," he said. "Why can't premiums be linked to health and safety records? That way, decent employers reap the benefits whereas those who consistently push health and safety to the bottom of the agenda are made to pay, both financially and with their reputation.

"It is a shocking fact that more than one million people are injured at work each year, and more than two million suffer from ill-health," he said. "What we want to see in this country is a safety culture – a society which does not tolerate people being injured through someone else's negligence."

APIL says the HSE should be given more money to increase the number of health and safety inspectors available to police work places.

"Inspection and enforcement are crucial and should continue to be the primary method used by the HSE to police work-places," said Gore. "This can only be done effectively with sufficient funding – the chairman of the HSC recently admitted the number of businesses far out-weighted the number of inspectors and it could not "...investigate every company".

“This concerns me deeply because unless the Government provides the HSE with better resources, so that more inspectors can be appointed, careless bosses will continue to injure their workers and get away with it.”

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