

QUALITY KITEMARK LAUNCHED FOR SOLICITORS

A new quality kitemark which aims to help injured Scots find qualified legal advice was launched at a reception in Edinburgh yesterday (23 February).

Running alongside a national public information campaign, the kitemark has been developed by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) with the aim of directing people injured through negligence towards accredited personal injury lawyers.

“When someone is injured, it is crucial they know where to find professional legal advice, and that they have confidence in the service they receive from their lawyer,” explained Fred Tyler, the organisation’s representative for Scotland.

“Our kitemark is part of an accreditation scheme which has four levels of expertise. APIL members have to prove their expertise and experience before being awarded any level of accreditation, and they also have to commit to a period of ongoing training to ensure they are fully up to speed with the latest developments in personal injury law,” he said.

The Scottish Executive’s consultation on the way forward for publicly-funded legal assistance in Scotland identified that the variable quality of information, advice and representation is a weakness in the Scottish system, and called for a system which inspires public confidence.

“In view of this, and based on very positive results when our kitemark was introduced in England and Wales last year, we believe this is the right time to introduce it in Scotland,” said Fred.

“People injured through negligence have already suffered enough and it is extremely important that they know where to turn for sound advice. The key to our scheme is making sure people recognise the quality kitemark and understand what it means, and within the next few months we will be distributing leaflets and posters to Citizens Advice Bureaux and libraries throughout Scotland.”

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