

**July 26, 2006**

**Compensation Bill receives Royal Assent: comment from Richard Langton, president, Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)**

We applaud the Government for introducing long overdue regulation of claims management companies but we must ensure the new rules provide robust protection for injured people. A great injustice has also been rectified following a Herculean effort by the Government to reverse the ruling in the Barker case, which would have been disastrous for mesothelioma sufferers. This swift action is to be commended.

We fought vehemently alongside others for clause 1 of the bill, the so-called 'negligence' clause, to be removed. We believe it will provide a bigger safety net for negligent defendants and erode standards of safety, but we must now wait and see how the courts interpret "desirable activities," and the impact this will have on compensation for injured people."

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For more information, contact: Lisa Wardle, t: 01159388715 or Lorraine Gwinnutt, t: 0115 9388707