

CALL TO PUBLICLY PRAISE SAFETY CONSCIOUS EMPLOYERS

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Employers with good health and safety records should be publicly praised as a reward for putting workers' safety at the top of their agendas.

Lawyers acting for injured workers say such a system would encourage employers to become more safety conscious, which in turn could reduce the increasing number of workplace injuries and deaths.

Martin Bare, president of national campaigning organisation APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers) said naming and praising would be an incentive to employers to take the issue seriously, but he also stressed that education about health and safety was just as crucial to make workplaces safe.

"There was an 11 per cent increase in workplace deaths last year, so clearly something needs to be done," he said. "We firmly believe there is a big need for education to improve employers' understanding of health and safety duties, and to quash the myths surrounding them."

"It is important that employers are rewarded for making sure their workers are safe," he said. "We believe the insurance industry should offer incentives to employers, such as linking the cost of premiums to good health and safety management. The public naming and praising system would be the icing on the cake for all good employers."

APIL has submitted its proposals to the Government, following a call for evidence about how health and safety outcomes can be improved.

"What we want to see is a safety culture in which people can go to work and then return home safely at the end of the day, and this will only be achieved when all employers make workers' safety their top priority," said Martin.

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Note to editors:

- **APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers)** was established in 1990 by a group of lawyers working on behalf of personal injury victims and now has more than 5,000 members. **APIL** campaigns for improvements in the law to help people who are injured or become ill through no fault of their own.

The Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform consultation "Improving outcomes from health and safety: A call for evidence" can be found here:

http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/documents/health_safety/bre_review_hs_071127.pdf

APIL's full response to the consultation can be found here:

<http://files.apil.org.uk/pdf/ConsultationDocuments/917.pdf>

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Further information can also be found at the organisation's website- www.apil.org.uk