



29 March 2011

## APIL statement: No-win no-fee reform

David Bott, incoming president of not-for-profit campaign group the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) said:

"People with the most serious of injuries face being denied access to justice because lawyers will be less able to offer 'no-win, no-fee' in difficult, high value cases.

"It is hard to see how a 'big society' would ever justify putting the interests of big institutions ahead of the needs of vulnerable, injured people. Profits should never be put before people.

"The only party to benefit from these proposals is the negligent defendant who has caused a needless injury, or moreover his insurance company which has collected a premium to pay out in the event of such a claim.

"Whilst we welcome the ten per cent increase to general damages for victims, it still falls short of Law Commission recommendations that they should go up by at least 50 per cent.

"It is bitterly disappointing that the Ministry of Justice has been seduced by the myth of a so-called 'compensation culture' when the Government's own statistics show that the number of claims has fallen in most categories during the past ten years."

-ENDS-

- APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers) is a not-for-profit organisation, whose members are dedicated to campaigning for improvements in the law to help people who are injured or become ill through no fault of their own
- For more information or a full copy of APIL's response, please contact Chris Birkle, press and communications officer, t: 0115 943 5409, e: [chris.birkle@apil.org.uk](mailto:chris.birkle@apil.org.uk), or Jane Hartwell, assistant press and communications officer, t: 0115 943 5416, e: [jane.hartwell@apil.org.uk](mailto:jane.hartwell@apil.org.uk)
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