



1 July 2011

## Health Select Committee Complaints and Litigation report – response from the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)

A report by the Health Select Committee which highlights fears that access to justice could be undermined by Government proposals has been welcomed by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).

APIL president David Bott said: "This report adds to the mounting evidence that the Ministry of Justice's reforms of civil litigation funding and costs are grossly unfair for some of the weakest members of our society.

"The MoJ must now listen to the widespread concern that people with complicated claims, and those who are left catastrophically injured, are at risk of being denied access to justice because of these savage proposals.

"Access to justice should never be restricted in any drive to cut costs. The focus should be on finding efficiencies in the system and preventing needless injury occurring in the first place.

"We have already demonstrated to the MoJ how the costs of clinical negligence claims can be reduced while preserving the widest possible access to justice. A new system for dealing with road traffic accident cases was also introduced 12 months ago with the aim of controlling costs. So how can the Government justify pushing ahead with reforms which risk stopping the most seriously injured people from obtaining justice?"

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Note to editors:

- A copy of APIL's consultation response is available on request.
- APIL 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, 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).
- Visit the association's website at [www.apil.org.uk](http://www.apil.org.uk).