



Response to David Cameron's comments on health and safety and extending the RTA claims process – 5 January 2011:

“Although we are yet to see the detail of this latest announcement, we have grave concerns that the Government is pushing through too many swathing changes to the system at once without proper consideration as to the implications for injured people.

The danger is that workers could be exposed to an unnecessary risk of injury and then be left with a civil justice system which cuts them off from their right to full and fair redress.

Instead of watering down the rules which are designed to protect workers, businesses should be made to feel confident in the knowledge they have nothing to fear from litigation provided they take reasonable steps to prevent needless injury. Any fear businesses have should be for the welfare of their staff, not legal costs.

We are always keen to help find efficiencies in the system which do not prevent injured people from bringing genuine claims. But it is far too early to consider extending the new streamlined process for lower value road traffic accident cases as it still has teething problems and remains far from being the finished article”.

APIL president David Bott