

**APIL CHILD ABUSE SIG
SUBJECT: CHILD ABUSE AND CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION**

**VENUE:
KINGSWAY HALL HOTEL
66 GREAT QUEEN'S STREET, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON**

The Meeting was opened by Paul Durkin from Abney Garsden McDonald, the Child Abuse Special Interest Group Co-Ordinator. Paul began by introducing Laura Begley, a Barrister at 9 Gough Square who provided a presentation on CICA claims and child abuse. Laura's handout is available on the APIL website.

The next speaker was Vera Baird QC who presented on adult rape and the CICA. Vera has been involved in a research project regarding mainly women's experiences of claiming Criminal Injuries Compensation and how the claims have been dealt with. Vera's presentation set out how the eligibility rules for the CICA were in conflict with modern understanding of rape. It appears the case workers at the CICA are not rape trained unlike Judges in the criminal justice system. The research project was to be completed shortly and Vera had been in touch with Ian Walker who is now the legal training officer for the CICA regarding training on rape.

Paul then introduced Jonathan Wheeler of the APIL EC. Jonathan provided the EC update for the Child Abuse Special Interest Group. Jonathan set out APIL's position in relation to Jackson and read out the APIL statement in this regard. He went onto discuss the discount rate and how there was to be a meeting with the Treasury Solicitor regarding the consultation over the discount rate which had been announced in the autumn. APIL have been chasing up the Government regarding the employer's liability compulsory insurance scheme but the Government have indicated they are still talking to relevant stakeholders. In relation to the multi-track code, Jonathan confirmed that the pilot was concluded and a best practice guide is to be published. Jonathan concluded with a request for help from members on campaign issues, particularly case studies.

The meeting concluded with drinks in the bar at the hotel.

Tracey Storey
28 March 2012