

APIL NORTH EAST REGIONAL GROUP MEETING

MEETING NOTES

Date: 25 April 2012

Speakers: 'Maximising Profit from Costs Now and in a Post Jackson Era', Amanda Ashton

Location: St James Park, Newcastle upon Tyne

Attendees: See attendance list

Minutes

1. Amanda Ashton, Compass Costs Consultants Ltd, delivered a talk entitled 'Maximising Profit from Costs Now and in a Post Jackson Era'. See separate handout.
2. Nigel Tomkins, APIL fellow and EC Officer also provided an update on current executive committee activities. This included a discussion regarding the Legal Aid, Sentencing & Punishment of Offenders Bill. The position was not hopeful. The compromise proposed by APIL was leaked and resulted in lost weeks to APIL trying to address the issue.

There was also a discussion relating to the RTA Portal- it is likely that the value of claims will be increased to £25,000. NT anticipates that this will have a more limited impact than it may seem given the lower number of cases with a value between £10,000 and £25,000. In addition many cases of that value may not be admitted. Extend beyond RTA? This is unlikely in the short term given that outside of RTA cases there is no direct claim against the insurer and also that, except in EL cases, you cannot search for the insurer. There is however pressure to have fixed costs all the way through even when it drops out of the portal. How can you have fixed costs if not in a process like the portal? There will be a consultation process in May.

3. Next meeting will be in October 2012. Further details to follow.

Sarah Morse, Secretary

25 April 2012