

## **MEETING NOTES**

---

**DATE:** 31 July 2007

**SUBJECT:** New to PI Group Meeting

**LOCATION:** Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury

**MAIN SPEAKERS:** Collin Ettinger, Irwin Mitchell  
Victoria Mortimer-Harvey, Pattinson & Brewer

The meeting took place the Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury on Tuesday 31 July 2007.

### **1. Apologies**

Denise Kitchener, APIL Chief Executive, was unable to attend.

### **2. Question Time**

Esther Pounder, (Group Co-ordinator), introduced herself, Alex Drake (Group secretary) and the two guest speakers Colin Ettinger and Victoria Mortimer Harvey and thanked everyone for coming. She explained that the meeting would take the format of a question and answer session and invited the Group to put forward any questions.

In response to various questions from the group Colin and Victoria gave very useful tips and advice on the topics of dealing with difficult and demanding clients, managing client's expectations, maximising damages in fixed cost cases and managing workload.

### **3. EC Update**

Victoria gave a brief update on EC matters including:

- (a) **Consultation papers** - APIL have recently responded to two consultation papers, the paper on Case Track limits and Case and the Consultation paper on the Law of Damages.

APIL welcomed the proposal to keep the small claims limit for personal injury claims at £1,000. In its response APIL has opposed the proposal that the fast track limit should be increased to £25,000. APIL has suggested that the proposed streamlined procedure is only suitable for fast track RTA cases up to £2,500. This would take out of the current

## MEETING NOTES

---

system a large bulk of claims that the insurance companies are complaining about costs.

In response to the Consultation paper on the Law on Damages, APIL has welcomed discussion about claims for psychiatric illness and moves to relieve the burden from local authorities for paying for care. APIL has pointed out that rehabilitation will be seriously affected if injured people are prevented from obtaining healthcare from the private sector and has also called for bereavement damages to be increased.

- (b) **"Accident or Negligence" booklet** - APIL has launched a new booklet to help people understand the difference between an accident and negligence.
- (c) **Rehabilitation code**: Amanda Stevens, APIL's Vice-President, has been working with insurers and others on the rehabilitation code and its publication is anticipated shortly.
- (d) **Regulation of claims management companies**: Roger Bolt, APIL's Treasurer, continues to lead the campaign that CMCs be required to carry professional indemnity cover.
- (e) **Insurers database**: APIL are requesting feedback from members on use of the database.