

**BRIEFING:
LONDON REGIONAL GROUP
MEETING
11 FEBRUARY 2020**

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**Independent Inquiry into
Child Sexual Abuse**



APIL representative – EC member Kim Harrison

- Remove limitation period for historical child sexual abuse cases
- Many cases rejected by firms in the early stages
- System weighted in favour of the defendant
- Judicial discretion causes uncertainty
- Pre-action protocol will not solve the problem

- Final hearing:
 - Evidence presented to the inquiry shows the current system is unfair
 - APIL believes there is strong case for reform – the law should recognise from the outset that these cases will be brought out of time

Fixed Costs for Clinical Negligence Claims

- CJC discussions: no agreement between the parties – Government consultation now expected
- Issues to be resolved (inc. exemptions)
- Need a streamlined **process**
- NHS needs to learn from negligence

APIL position:

- Costs must allow patients to take advice
- Fixed costs must be monitored and updated
- There must be a faster exchange of medical records
- Early admissions should be encouraged
- Incentives for early admission of liability
- Fees for experts must be viable

APIL Strategic Plan

- CEO Mike Benner joined July 2019
- New strategic vision
- To be presented to APIL members at the Spring conference and AGM

- Core principles:
 - Access to justice
 - Prevention of needless injuries
 - Excellence in legal representation

- Plus:

We are looking at ways to address the lack of public trust in personal injury law and lawyers

- Membership engagement panel supports work to:
 - Rebuild trust
 - Prevent needless injury
 - Strive for excellence in PI practice
 - Champion the role of PI lawyers

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