



**BRIEFING:
CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL
INTEREST GROUP
14 JANUARY 2020**

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APIL Strategic Plan



- New CEO Mike Benner
- 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



Civil Liability Act



Introduces:

- Rigid tariffs for whiplash
- Changes to the discount rate calculation
- Separate, but linked: small claims limit increase



Update: discount rate

- Discount rate set at -0.25% in England/Wales
- Insurers VERY angry – expected it to be higher
- Still set on the wrong basis
- Review in 5 years' time



- In Scotland the rate is -0.75%
- Set by Government Actuary, not ministers
- In Northern Ireland the rate is still 2.5%, but we're lobbying hard on this



Major research project

- We need persuasive evidence to ensure the discount rate review is fair
- Key information on claims affected:
 - life expectancy
 - sums awarded for loss of earnings and care
 - whether a PPO was offered



- You choose how you provide the information
- Project will run until the next discount rate review in 2024
- Anyone who is interested should contact APIL researcher at:
johnmcglade@apil.org.uk



Update: small claims reform

- Whiplash tariffs and small claims reform still due to be introduced in April – even more inappropriate because of the General Election
- Letter to Lord Keen and MoJ officials about work going on behind closed doors – response awaited



- Children still not exempt from tariffs
- How will ADR work?
- Rehab excluded
- Rules expected this month
- What are the chances this will stay on track?



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