

**BRIEFING:
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SIG
MEETING
25 FEBRUARY 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

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

Manifesto

A Manifesto from APIL: 30 years of commitment to injured people

- Prevention of Needless Injuries
- Fairness for Injured People



- Aimed at parliamentary candidates
- Education about the needs of injured people
- Follow-up work started with new MPs
- Queen's Speech:
 - Thomas Cook → compulsory PL campaign
 - Armed Forces Bill → opposition to liability 'longstop'

Bereavement Damages

- Long term APIL campaign
- MoJ draft remedial order: couples who have cohabited for more than 2 years to be eligible
- Joint Committee on Human Rights providing legislative scrutiny

- We told MoJ and joint committee the proposals don't go far enough
- In July the joint committee agreed, saying the law on bereavement damages 'risks further challenge'

- Government response: no consultation
- Confirmation: cohabittees of more than 2 years will be eligible
- Increase in bereavement damages by rate of inflation since 2013
- Bereavement damages are a 'token'
- Further change = too much intrusion

- Lobbying will re-start in earnest
- Report being prepared for presentation in Parliament
- YouGov poll on public attitudes

Fund of Last Resort for Asbestos-Related Disease

- Work began on campaign for new fund
– little progress due to political climate
- Another long-term campaign
commitment
- Need for a wider fund recognised by
Government during establishment of
mesothelioma scheme

- Established support from Martin Docherty-Hughes SNP MP (West Dunbartonshire)
- Need case studies to establish credibility – can you help?
- Contact sam.ellis@apil.org.uk/0115 943 5426

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