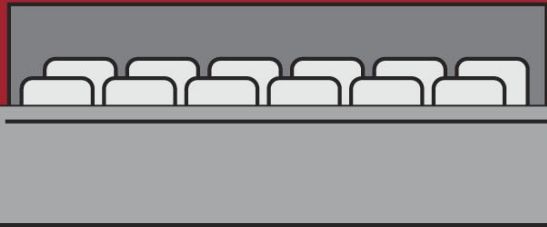


MOJ Proposals

The Jury's OUT



MOJ proposals... and the importance of early notification

The **Ministry of Justice** (MOJ) has published a consultation paper streamlining the personal injury claims process for “fast track” cases up to £25,000. Despite the reported uncertainties about the timing and implementation of the proposals, they do highlight the importance of early accident notification, which AIG UK has long advocated.

The MOJ’s proposals put forward strict time limits for providing liability decisions to the Claimant Lawyers after an incident:

- Motor claims – 15 working days
- Employers’ liability/Public liability claims – 30 working days

Under the proposals, if defendants admit liability within these timescales then claimant lawyers will only be entitled to fixed costs resulting in significant claims savings. However, if defendants are not able to comply within the timescales, then claimant lawyers will be able to recover standard costs which we know from experience can far exceed the claimant’s damages in lower value cases.

Despite the uncertainties surrounding the adoption of the proposals, they do highlight the importance of early accident notification which we believe to be best practice as it assists with:

- Early rehabilitation
- Cost savings (e.g. damages, claimants’ solicitors)
- Risk management

In the light of the proposals and the other benefits of early incident reporting we strongly recommend that organisations consider their own internal incident reporting procedures and protocols. AIG UK have highly developed research methods to enhance incident reporting procedures. If you have any queries or issues you wish to discuss, please contact your nominated AIG Account Relationship Manager, your AIG Claims Account Relationship Manager or our resident expert, John Higgins, Head of UK Personal Injury on 020 8253 7411 – john.higgins@aig.com.

In the meantime, we will continue to monitor events surrounding the MOJ’s proposals and will update this bulletin as soon as we have further information.