



Personal Injury Reforms 09/10

The Ministry of Justice have announced a radical overhaul of the present personal injury claim system. This is the first review since the existing procedures were introduced by the Woolf reforms in 1997.

These reforms have been introduced in response to growing concerns in the spiralling costs and amount of time taken to settle personal injury claims. These reforms were developed by the Ministry of Justice in conjunction with major Insurers, the ABI, representatives of claimants including The Law Society, Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL), Motor Accident Solicitor's Society (MASS) and trade unions.

The proposed new electronic claim form process is expected to apply to 500,000 road traffic accident claims occurring in England or Wales after the 1st April 2010 where the element of the claim is likely to have a value between £1,000 and £10,000.

It is expected that the system will be user by approximately 5,000 Claimant Representatives, 100 Insurers and 1,000 Self Insured/Compensators. Approximately 500,000 claims a year will follow the new process.

The reforms dictate that a decision on liability must be confirmed by the insurer/compensator to the claimant's representative in no more than 15 working days (30 working days for Motor Insurers Bureau claims). There are additional time allocations within the process towards final settlement.

The purpose of the reforms is to be speed up the claims process and reduce overall costs whilst ensuring that fair compensation is delivered to the claimant as soon as possible.

As a result of these reforms, PI lawyers may deal with more specialised cases and not run-of-the-mill cases that can be dealt with by a handler. DPS will have a beta system up and running by January 2010. If you would like to find out more, please contact your Account Manager or email info@dpssoftware.co.uk.

