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### **Objectives**

- To promote full and just compensation for all types of personal injury;
- To promote and develop expertise in the practice of personal injury law;
- To promote wider redress for personal injury in the legal system;
- To campaign for improvements in personal injury law;
- To promote safety and alert the public to hazards wherever they arise;
- To provide a communication network for members.

In April of 2011, I stood up at the APIL conference and said I wanted to talk about changes: the changes that were already here – the RTA portal; the changes that were on the horizon – alternative business structures; the changes that were just round the corner – Jackson; the changes that would follow that – Young.

Well, it seems like a long time since my conference speech and my presidential year has been a year of unease as some changes came in and some moved closer. The RTA portal has celebrated it's one millionth download. Alternative business structures are here. We have a new coalition Government which has decided to include parts of the Lord Justice Jackson Review in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Bill and the Government's response to the Lofstedt report, *'Reclaiming health and safety for all'* has now also been published. Any one of these could have been enough to fill a year, but they have all come at once.

By far the majority of my time has been spent on the LASPO Bill. Karl Tonks, Muiris Lyons and I have attended the Civil Justice Council, led discussions on Part 36, qualified one-way costs shifting (QOCS) and proportionality. We have met Ministers and Civil Servants and organised claimant coalition meetings with the Law Society, MASS, PIBA, the unions and charities. APIL has tirelessly put forward the view of the injured person to the Government and I believe that some of those arguments have hit home.

But it is clear that the Government has no moral difficulty in allowing an innocent claimant's damages to be reduced. In fact, it actively encourages the claimant to have a financial stake in litigation. I believe that punishing an innocent claimant is an entirely retrograde step.

You have to ask yourself, why are these reforms being pushed through? We are told by the Government that conditional fee agreements and after the event insurance have led to an increase in claims and litigation, necessitating reform. But subject to an increase in fraud, an increase in claims could easily mean that claimants are now more aware of their rights and exercising those rights entirely appropriately.

So rather than looking to suppress claims by reducing damages and reducing access to lawyers, why not accept that the vast majority of claimants are honest, the vast majority of lawyers are also honest and come up with a system that allows innocent victims quick and simple redress?

Lastly, I would like to wish Karl all the best for the coming year.



## Statement of Intent

### The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

- Believes passionately that victims deserve committed, well trained lawyers to support their fight for justice;
- Understands that injured people can often be the most vulnerable in society and need help;
- Campaigns to make a tangible difference to the lives of injured people and society as a whole;
- Reassures victims and acts fairly with honesty and integrity;
- Drives up standards in personal injury law and process, encouraging innovation and efficiency;
- Is 'not for profit' and does not seek to make money out of the misfortune of injured people;
- Treats law as a rewarding vocation, not a job, and encourages its members to thrive in their work.

2011 was a challenging time to join APIL as the new CEO. It was a year of unprecedented attacks on the injured person, with the media (driven by insurers) creating misleading perceptions of wide scale fraud and abuse, painting the victim and the lawyer as a parasite on society. This shifting sand in the media mirrored the tone of Government reforms in trying to discourage claims, limit access to justice, and require the genuine victim to pay.

The recession has created an appetite for cost saving. APIL is not anti-change, and is certainly not anti-efficiency. But cost savings are being used as mitigation for the most unpalatable of changes. We believe in balancing efficiencies with ethics, and the scales are tipping the wrong way.

It can be all too easy to let the negatives overshadow the positives. Amongst this gloom there were glimmers of light. APIL was pleased to be involved from the outset at the highest levels of Government debate – at the MOJ, the CJC, various roundtables, the DWP, the House of Lords and engaging with Parliamentarians in every jurisdiction.

We are currently meeting with Lords and MPs on a regular basis, and as a result, the debate in the House of Lords on the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill has been livelier and better informed. Relationships with Scottish Government officials are also excellent.

We have formed a strong coalition with claimant law groups and charities, and are working together to get the best result for the victim.

Innovation in process and policy is something of which we are proud. We have continued to work in conjunction with the Forum of Insurance Lawyers (FOIL) and key insurers on the Multi-Track Code pilot. The code better serves those victims with catastrophic injuries, prioritising rehabilitation and early interim payments. We also made progress in our work with the NHSLA to develop a streamlined scheme for lower value clinical negligence claims.

The provision of high quality training has continued to be well received. The development of webinars as a training tool gives quick, easy access to training without having to leave the desk.

I have enjoyed contributing actively to our coverage in the press and media, and having the opportunity to put across the views of APIL on a national stage. We are definitely seen as a 'go-to' commentator by the media.

So our thoughts for 2012. Obviously, we will need to see the results of our labours in legal reform. Our influence needs to materialise into tangible improvements to the proposals. We also want to drive our own agenda to improve the experience of victims. For members, we want to have better recognition of our brand, increase the number of injured people using APIL as a resource to find a solicitor. We will keep fighting for the rights of the victim, making sure reforms are victim focussed, and will strengthen APIL as the voice of the claimant PI lawyer. Together we have a voice, a shared purpose, and influence. Let's use it.



Chief  
Executive's  
Report

My biggest challenge during 2011 was to find a new CEO for the organisation following the resignation of Denise Kitchener. Consultation took place and a person specification was drawn up. The position was advertised widely and APIL received many applications for the role. One candidate obtained the unanimous support of the interview panel and the executive committee. That candidate was Deborah Evans. Deborah joined APIL in June 2011. She has 'hit the ground running' and brought to the organisation a wealth of professional contacts and a depth of knowledge. Deborah is the right individual to take APIL and its values forward into the future. The 'challenge' set by Denise has been met.

At the 2011 AGM there were six vacancies on the executive committee – five additional officers and one specified category for Northern Ireland. Cenric Clement-Evans, Neil Sugarman, Mark Turnbull and Jonathan Wheeler were re-elected on to the committee. New members were Martin Hanna and John Spencer. Martin Hanna is our first ever 'second generation' executive committee member. His father, Francis Hanna, was a founding member. Stephen Gray stood down as the Northern Ireland representative after serving solidly since 2008. John McQuater stood down as immediate past president.

The executive committee met formally on seven occasions in 2011. One meeting took place in Nottingham and another in Manchester. I visited the APIL offices in Nottingham on three occasions. It is always a pleasure to visit the APIL head office. Our organisation is indebted to the hard-working dedicated and friendly staff, who strive to get our messages on behalf of injured victims in a difficult media environment. As at 31 December 2011 APIL employed 30 staff, including six who work part-time.

The training courses organised and run by the APIL office are of the highest quality and the annual conference is always a celebration of all of the achievements of the dedicated work from APIL staff and the many members who participate in APIL's activities throughout the year.

It has again been my pleasure and privilege to have been able to have served as APIL secretary. It is my firm belief that we work best as an organisation when we unite to fight for the rights of innocent injured victims. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to have served this organisation once again.



#### Fighting for the rights of injured people – Parliamentary campaigns

2011 was the year in which the full force of opposition to the current civil justice system was ranged against personal injury practitioners and injured people. The Government's determination to implement the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Bill was relentless, and set the tone for a series of attacks on the personal injury system. As always, APIL confronted opposition head on, even when the odds were firmly against us:

- Meetings were held with 32 separate parliamentarians across the UK;
- APIL representatives gave oral evidence to three separate parliamentary select committee inquiries;
- We submitted written evidence to four separate parliamentary select committee inquiries;
- The LASPO Bill dominated the 2011 parliamentary agenda. Ahead of the Bill's publication, APIL met with representatives from the four main political parties in England and Wales, and continued to meet with MPs during the Bill's passage through the House of Commons. APIL also gave evidence directly to the committee of MPs who were scrutinising the Bill at committee stage. APIL's lobbying continued into the House of Lords, with both written and verbal briefings being provided to peers.
- Members played a major part in lobbying against the LASPO Bill, providing case studies of injured people who would be affected by the potential changes, as well as contacting directly their own MPs and local peers. More than 120 members reported on their lobbying efforts, which included letters and emails, as well as speaking directly to MPs either on the telephone or at meetings.
- We also worked with many charities and other campaign groups to fight the Bill's progress.
- APIL continued to press the Government for a response to its consultation on the need for an employers' liability insurance bureau (ELIB) and a series of discussions was held with the minister, Lord Freud,

at the Department for Work and Pensions, to press the very real need for a fund of last resort for workplace claims. Meetings were held with interested MPs, and Naomi Long, Alliance MP for Belfast East, tabled parliamentary questions in an attempt to put pressure on the Government to act.

- The Association continued to be a part of call for parliamentary select committees, providing evidence, both in writing and in person, to the Justice Select Committee, the Transport Select Committee, the Health Select Committee and the Scottish Affairs Select Committee.
- MPs also turned their attention to car insurance premiums. The Transport Select Committee continued its inquiry into the rising cost of car insurance, with APIL appearing in front of the committee to defend the right of access to justice for people injured in road traffic accidents. A meeting was held with Jack Straw MP, to address his concerns and provide balance to his arguments. A meeting was also held with Liberal Democrat MP David Ward, whose own investigation into rising car insurance premiums placed the blame with personal injury claims.
- Our campaign for regulation of the hairdressing industry continued, working and liaising with the Hairdressing Council and David Morris MP, whose Private Members Bill to produce a register of hairdressers unfortunately fell at first reading. The association then continued to focus on raising awareness among the public of problems with the industry.



2011 conference



2011 conference



Clin neg conference



### Safeguarding the rights of injured people – law reform

APIL has responded to 28 consultations across the jurisdictions this year with the aim of highlighting the needs of injured people. All of APIL's consultation responses can be found on the association's website under *Campaigning and Consultations and Responses*.

#### England and Wales

There has been a raft of Government consultations this year which could seriously undermine the injured person's right to redress. One of these was the Government's *Solving disputes in the county court* consultation. In our response we reiterated that reform must not be to the detriment of those injured through no fault of their own. We remain unsupportive of an extension of the RTA claims process at this time as the portal is still not fit for purpose. We argued for a full review of the RTA process before further reform is considered. We also warned against rolling out similar processes for employers liability and public liability cases as a one size fits all approach will not work for such complex cases.

There has also been extensive examination of Health and Safety in 2011 following the publication of Lord Young's report, *Common Sense Common Safety*, towards the end of 2010. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has focused on key recommendations from his report, including the proposed abolition of the licensing regime for activity centres for young people and amendments to the Reporting of Injuries,

Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR). Following on from this, the Department for Work and Pensions commissioned *Professor Lofstedt* to consider combining, simplifying or reducing the level of statutory instruments owned by the HSE and the associated Approved Codes of Practice. In all responses, APIL has stood firm on the need for the largely successful framework that health and safety regulations provide. Health and safety regulations have significantly improved health and safety in the workplace, and this is further proven by published statistics and, therefore, should not be changed or removed.

#### Justice Bill / Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Bill

In challenging Lord Justice Jackson's civil litigation costs proposals and the subsequent Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, working with the Access to Justice Action Group (AJAG), APIL commissioned ICD Research to ask the public about their experiences of using 'no win no fee' agreements when funding legal cases, in particular those involving personal injury. In addition, a survey was conducted in July with the members to assess the potential effects of the Jackson proposals and the LASPO Bill. The main research findings are on the members section of the website.

#### Solicitors Regulation Authority

The SRA continued to consult early in the year on its new Handbook, which came into effect in October 2011. APIL demanded consistency in the regulation of legal professionals for the protection of injured people.

Referral fees have been in the spotlight this year. We welcomed the Legal Services Board's (LSB) consultation examining referral arrangements from the perspective of the injured person. We acknowledge that referral arrangements are a contentious area of business amongst our members and in our response we reiterated that our fundamental concern is that the injured person should have access to the best possible advice by investigating which solicitor is best for them in their situation and there should be full transparency of referral arrangements to the client. We also raised the importance of the injured person's right to choose their own solicitor. We also responded to the Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) call for evidence on motor premiums. We urged an impartial view and for the OFT to look for the real evidence behind the insurers' spin.

#### Clinical negligence

We have been involved in discussions with the NHSLA, and more recently other stakeholders, to streamline the process for lower value clinical negligence cases. APIL expressed a willingness to consider this following consultation of our members in 2010 when they expressed concern that there were access to justice issues for lower value clinical negligence cases. The NHSLA approached us following a discussion with Lord Young who had asked it to consider developing such a process.

Yearlong discussions have been fruitful. There is much we agree on, but work continues on the scope of the process, whether the scheme is truly voluntary and the fixed costs payable for these cases.

#### Discount rate

Throughout 2011, APIL has been pursuing its aim of persuading the Lord Chancellor to review the Discount Rate. Judicial Review (JR) proceedings were issued in March 2011. Permission to JR the Lord Chancellor was refused by the Administrative Court, because the Lord Chancellor indicated that a consultation on the rate would be published in September or October 2011. With no sign either of the outcome of the discount rate review or the Lord Chancellor's promised consultation, APIL wrote a fresh letter before action to the Lord Chancellor on November indicating its intention to apply for a fresh JR of his continued failure to conduct a timely review of the discount rate. As the year closed, the Lord Chancellor's solicitors indicated that a consultation was due to be published in the new year. APIL has not ruled out launching further proceedings in 2012.

#### Multi-track Code

2011 was a very progressive year for the Multi-track Code pilot: a joint initiative between APIL, FOIL and key insurers. APIL members and insurers continued to join the pilot scheme and feedback to the organisations. In October, APIL members, participating insurers and various stakeholders met to discuss where the Code will go in 2012. The majority of attendees were agreed that the Code had improved their working relationship with their opponents and most importantly, offered clear positive outcomes for the claimant. The monitoring database, where the case data is housed, held 87 cases as at January 2012. In 2012, the Multi-Track Code steering group plans to publish a Best Practice Guide for claimant solicitors and insurers.



President's Lunch 2011



President's Lunch 2011

#### **Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority**

APIL was invited to take part in the CICA's newly formed Policy and Equality Forum which meets quarterly at the CICA's Glasgow offices. This year the forum has dealt with issues including: retaining infant awards in trust; payments being made directly to the applicant; Welsh language scheme consultation; email communications with applicants; online application pilot. At the CICA's request, APIL's working group submitted its ideas to the CICA on how to preserve and invest infant awards held in trust.

A review of the CICA scheme was anticipated all year, but by the year end, the expected consultation has not been published.

After concerns by APIL members about the payments of awards direct to applicants, often in the face of instructions to the contrary, APIL submitted a number of Freedom of Information requests to the CICA. Information gained from these requests was subsequently shared with APIL members at Levenes Solicitors, whose judicial review of this policy change has led to its reversal for applicants represented by law firms.

#### **Association of District Judges**

APIL's bi-annual meetings with the ADJ have been particularly useful this year – discussions on the many changes introduced by the claims process have been invaluable to all concerned. These included helping district judges who found the Stage 3 settlement packs impossible to read, promoting APIL's multi track code pilot and urging the use of emails with court and judges.

#### **Rehabilitation**

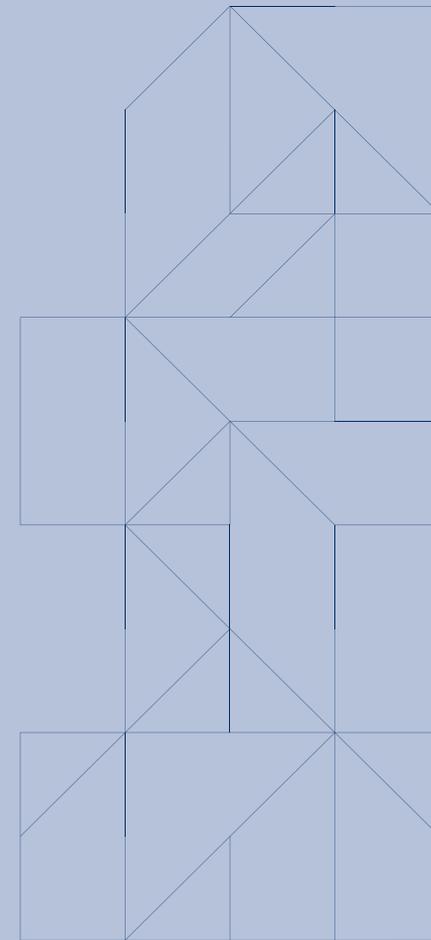
As a member of the IUA/ABI Rehabilitation Working group, APIL was asked to contribute to a survey on current experiences of rehabilitation. The findings from the survey will eventually feed into a report examining the current status of rehabilitation provision for personal injury claims.

#### **Review of the Pre-action protocol for low value personal injury claims in road traffic accidents**

The Ministry of Justice employed Professor Paul Fenn to conduct a review of the pre-action protocol and the accompanying electronic portal which had gone 'live' on 30 April 2010. APIL provided data for the review in June.

#### **Whiplash research**

Whiplash has been targeted by the insurance industry as one of the primary causes for the recent rise in insurance premiums and so a comparative study of different jurisdictions was started this year.



# Financial Report

In what continues to be an extremely difficult financial landscape in which to operate, particularly with regard to personal injury, I am delighted to announce that for the financial year 2011, APIL, has generated a pre-tax surplus of some £41,546. Which following the appropriate tax computation reduces to a final surplus position of £30,397. This figure represents an improvement not only on our original budget but also on our in year projections of an expected £20,000 surplus, and given the prevailing economic climate and the inherent difficulties affecting many businesses throughout 2011, I believe represents an outstanding achievement.

Not unexpectedly, given the severe financial constraints that many of our members are working under, we have seen a small reduction of £65,727 (2.4 per cent) in our total income from the previous year.

One of the most encouraging aspects of 2011, was that our membership numbers continued to hold up well. Indeed, they showed a small increase of 43 on the previous year. As a consequence, the total income received in membership subscriptions increased to £903,021.

The reduction in our operational income in 2011, is exacerbated by the fall in the return on our investments. As a result of our understandable 'minimum risk' investment strategy, and of course the fact that interest rates have remained at a record low 0.5 per cent for the whole of 2011, the return on our investments was a very disappointing £6,858.

**Christopher  
Limb  
Treasurer**



The loss of income in our advertising revenue, was in part the result of the absence on maternity leave of our Business Support Assistant whose responsibilities included advertising sales, and the (unsuccessful) experiment of out-sourcing our advertising for PI Focus. The situation has now been resolved and we are well on target to reach the budget figures for 2012.

On a positive note, a new partnership arrangement was entered into with AON in 2011, which made available to APIL members the opportunity to access discounted rates for their Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII). In allowing AON to access our membership, but in no way endorsing the product, APIL was paid £20,000 for the first year of this agreement, with the possibility of an increased sum on renewal.

Our conference income held up extremely well when compared against 2010. The total income generated from our residential conferences and charity golf day amounted to £589,529, compared to £599,887 in 2010. This was due in part to the fact that we held a business conference and a rehabilitation conference in 2011, which were both hugely successful.

I would also draw your attention to the improved cash position at the end of 2011, which shows an increase of some £452,385 on the previous year. The majority of this funding being the result of us receiving the mortgage on our new offices, 3 months after the property was purchased, and also a substantial refund from HMRC on the purchase of the property.

One of our major strengths is controlling our expenditure, and this has proved to be the case again this year. From the mid year point onwards when we were projecting a deficit year end position, we have worked particularly hard to reduce our costs in all our discrete business areas. The success of this initiative can be seen in the final year end figure, which shows a pre-tax surplus of some £41,546.

There have as always, been additional demands and pressures on our resources during the year, not least being the recruitment of our new chief executive in June which incurred a (non-recurrent) cost of some £37,000.

*"These financial results again demonstrate that APIL remains both financially sound and financially well managed."*



Earlier on in the financial year, we increased the APIL senior management board by one member, with the recruitment of a head of research. This recruitment illustrates the Association's determination to place research alongside legal policy and communications at the heart of APIL's campaign work, representing the interests of the negligently injured person with the most accurate and up-to-date information. Although this was a large financial commitment on APIL's behalf, it has subsequently proven to be almost cost neutral with savings on the salary budget due to post vacancies, reductions in hours/responsibilities and three instances of maternity leave during the year under report.

During 2011 we spent a further £73,710 on the public information campaign being conducted on our behalf by the PR firm McCann Erickson. The contract was terminated at the end of September, and the Association were able to negotiate a substantial discount of £20,775 off the cost of the services provided.

Once again in 2011, I am delighted to report that we have not made any withdrawals from APIL's reserves, which at the end of 2010 stood at £436,068. The after tax surplus figure on our income and expenditure account for the current year will increase our reserves by the corresponding amount. As a consequence, I am confident APIL's reserves are appropriate for our known current and reasonable foreseeable future commitments.

APIL made one charitable donation during the financial year, namely, £1,105 to Mesothelioma UK, from funds raised directly at the APIL charity golf day.

These financial results again demonstrate that APIL remains both financially sound and financially well managed. In particular, I would just like to make mention of the decision made by the Executive Committee to purchase our own offices at the end of 2010, the benefits of which have been readily apparent within the last year, with savings on rent/lease costs alone of some £49,802.

Sadly, this is my last report as Treasurer. I have found the post and my position as one of the four officers a source of great interest as well as challenge, and commend the collegiate spirit of honest but respectful debate. It has been both a privilege and an honour to have held this position for the past four years, and to help shepherd the organisation through an extremely difficult fiscal period. I could not have achieved this without the unstinting support of the entire APIL staff team, and in particular the head of business support services and members of the accounts team, to whom I am extremely grateful and whose commitment co-operation and skills greatly benefit the organisation.

## **Report of the executive committee Year ended 31 December 2011**

The Executive Committee present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2011. This report also forms the report of the directors, as required under s.415 of the Companies Act 2006.

### Activity

The principal activities of the company are to campaign for improvements in personal injury law on behalf of injured people; to promote, encourage and develop expertise in the practice of personal injury law by education and the exchange of information and knowledge.

Review of developments and future prospects  
In 2011, APIL developments included:

- Continued growth in APIL's membership numbers.
- The completion in September 2011 of the funding of APIL's public information campaign that began in the autumn of 2010.
- The provision of two extremely successful additional conferences, one on catastrophic injuries the other on rehabilitation.
- Further improvements and enhancements to our expert database service including the removing of the fixed annual subscription date to one of a rolling year.
- The development of a new partnership arrangement with AON.
- The development of APIL's own research programme.
- Savings in rent/lease costs in our first year of property ownership of some £50K.

In 2012, new activity will include:

- The launch of new competency standards to identify specialists in brain injury, clinical negligence etc.
- Launch of an improved APIL website and consumer leaflets.
- Two new conferences on whiplash and cosmetic surgery
- Continuation of project work on the multi track code, ELIB, NHSLA scheme and involvement in new developing ideas such as an extension of portals.
- Comprehensive research programmes.
- Review of membership communications.
- Strong lobbying, press and media strategy.

As in previous years, we have again set ourselves an extremely tight but achievable budget for 2012, with a modest surplus of £27K, in the knowledge that the financial pressures on both ourselves and our members will continue to be extremely difficult to overcome.

### Results

Details of the results for the year are set out in the income and expenditure account on page 18.

### Charitable gifts

APIL made one charitable donation during the financial year, namely, £1,105 to Mesothelioma UK, from funds raised directly from the APIL charity golf day (2010: £1,500 donated to the Headway).

### Directors' responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom accounting standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions, to disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Executive committee

M Lyons	M Hanna
C Limb*	S Lawson
S Kightley	N Tomkins
M Imperato	M Stockwell
V Mortimer-Harvey	N Sugarman
K Tonks*	M Turnbull
J Spencer	C Clement-Evans
G Dalyell	J Wheeler
D Bott*	J Horton

\*are also directors of the company

K Tonks was appointed director on 14 April 2011. M Lyons resigned as director on 15 April 2011.

### Financial risk management

The company's objective regarding financial risk management is to keep exposure of price risk, credit risk, liquidity risk and cash flow risk to a minimum. The company makes sales on normal credit terms and manages the related risks through its credit control procedures. In the opinion of the Executive Committee the exposure of such risks has been assessed and at present deemed to be low and at an acceptable level for the company to continue to operate.

### Provision of information to auditor

So far as each of the members of the Executive Committee are aware at the time the report is approved:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware, and
- the members of the Executive Committee have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

### Basis of preparation

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Executive Committee and signed on the behalf of the Executive Committee and the directors on 16 February 2012.

**Stephen Lawson**  
Secretary

**Independent auditor's report to the members of Association of Personal Injury Lawyers Company Limited by Guarantee**

We have audited the financial statements of Association of Personal Injury Lawyers for the year ended 31 December 2011 which comprise the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet, and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to smaller entities).

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Respective responsibilities of directors and auditor**

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements  
An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

**Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2011 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to smaller entities; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

**Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion the information given in the report of the executive committee for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.



**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the directors' report.

**PKF**

**Gareth Singleton**

(Senior statutory auditor) for and on behalf of PKF (UK) LLP, Statutory auditor  
Nottingham, UK  
18 February 2012

**Income &  
Expenditure  
Account  
Year ended  
31 December  
2011**

	Note	2011	2010
		£	£
<b>Income</b>			
Membership subscriptions	2	947,869	944,425
Other income		1,701,876	1,771,047
		<b>2,649,745</b>	2,715,472
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration expenses		(2,523,331)	(2,635,294)
Public information campaign – special project		(73,710)	(85,802)
<b>Total administration expenses</b>		<b>(2,597,041)</b>	(2,721,096)
<b>Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure</b>			
		<b>52,704</b>	(5,624)
Interest receivable	4	6,858	17,156
Interest payable	4	(18,016)	–
<b>Surplus of income over expenditure before tax</b>	5	<b>41,546</b>	11,532
Taxation	6	(11,149)	(8,597)
<b>Surplus after tax</b>		<b>30,397</b>	2,935
<b>Balance brought forward</b>		<b>436,068</b>	433,133
<b>Balance carried forward</b>		<b>436,068</b>	433,133

All activities derive from continuing operations. There are no recognised gains or losses for the current financial year or previous year other than as stated in the income and expenditure account.

The notes on pages 20 – 26 form part of these financial statements.

**Balance  
Sheet  
Year ended  
31 December  
2011**

	Note	2011	2010
		£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	7	564,445	574,772
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	8	10,435	112,110
Prepayments and accrued income		33,302	71,853
Cash at bank and in hand		852,668	400,283
		<b>896,405</b>	584,246
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	9	<b>(739,051)</b>	(722,950)
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		<b>157,354</b>	(138,704)
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>721,799</b>	436,068
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due over one year</b>	10	<b>(255,334)</b>	–
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>466,465</b>	436,068
<b>Reserves</b>			
Income and expenditure account		<b>466,465</b>	436,068

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime with part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, and in accordance with FRSSE (effective April 2008).

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Officers on 16 February 2012.

Signed on behalf of the Executive Committee.

**Christopher Limb**  
Treasurer & Director

**Notes to the  
accounts  
Year ended  
31 December  
2011**

**Accounting policies**

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). The particular accounting policies adopted are described below. The profit and loss account has been replaced by an income and expenditure account as the Executive Committee considers that this statement is more appropriate given the nature of the company's activities.

**Accounting convention**

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Income**

Membership subscriptions to the association cover a period of twelve months to 31 March each year. Subscriptions received during the year have been credited to the income and expenditure account, subject to the deferral of three months of each subscription, representing that portion attributable from 1 January 2012 to 31 March 2012.

Other income represents income from conferences, training events and publishing, and is recognised when the contractual obligations of the service for which the receipt relates have been delivered.

**Interest receivable**

Interest receivable is credited to the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets is calculated to write off their cost over the period of their estimated useful economic lives at the following rate:

Computer equipment, fixtures and fittings	20% straight line
Freehold Property	2% straight line

**Pension scheme**

The company contributes to the personal pension schemes of eligible employees. Costs are charged to the profit and loss account as they are incurred.

**Leases**

Operating lease rentals are charged against income in equal amounts over the lease term.

**Deferred tax**

Full provision is made for material deferred tax assets and liabilities arising from all timing differences between the recognition of gains and losses in the financial statements and recognition in the tax computation.

A net deferred tax asset is recognised only if it can be regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

Deferred assets and liabilities are calculated at the tax rates expected to be effective at the time the timing differences are expected to reverse.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

	2011 No.	2010 No.	2011 £	2010 £
<b>Membership subscriptions</b>				
Practitioner members	4,428	4,393	863,025	866,987
Student members	21	32	1,412	1,650
Paralegal members	214	193	27,612	20,474
Academic members	11	17	1,311	1,445
Overseas members	96	92	11,376	8,740
Web members	–	1	–	70
Honorary members	14	13	–	–
	<b>4,784</b>	4,741	<b>904,736</b>	899,366
Add: Deferred income brought forward			226,986	217,704
Less: Deferred income carried forward (see note 1)			(228,701)	(226,986)
			<b>903,021</b>	890,084
Corporate accreditation income			51,801	58,591
Add: Deferred income brought forward			28,610	24,360
Less: Deferred income carried forward			(35,563)	(28,610)
			<b>44,848</b>	54,341
			<b>947,869</b>	944,425

**Notes to the  
accounts  
Year ended  
31 December  
2011**

**Committee and employees**

Membership of the executive committee is voluntary. No remuneration for Executive Committee duties has been paid in the year.

	2011	2010
<b>Employee costs during the year</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	787,417	774,515
Social security costs	72,931	68,540
Pension costs	48,237	46,624
	<b>908,585</b>	889,679
<b>Average number of persons employed</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Administration	30	28
<b>Interest receivable</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank deposit interest	6,858	17,156
Interest payable	18,016	–
<b>Surplus of income over expenditure before tax</b>		
<b>The result for the year is after charging:</b>		
Depreciation	16,709	16,198
Auditor's remuneration	5,400	5,250
Rentals under operating leases – land and buildings	–	72,157
– other	5,582	2,412
Loss on disposal of fixed asset	16	3,283

	2011	2010
<b>Taxation on results for the year</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
United Kingdom corporation tax charge at an effective rate of 21% (2010: 21%) based on taxable surplus for the year	11,149	8,597
	<b>11,149</b>	8,597

**Factors affecting tax charge for the year**

Surplus of income over expenditure before tax	41,546	11,532
Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by the effective rate of corporation tax in the UK of 21% (2010: 21%)	8,725	2,422
Effects of:		
– Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	906	5,621
– Capital allowances in excess of depreciation	1,518	(10,551)
– Capital items expensed	–	11,105
Current tax charge for the period	<b>11,149</b>	8,597

**Notes to the  
accounts  
Year ended  
31 December  
2011**

	Freehold Property	Computer Equipment, Fixtures and Fittings	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2011	577,135	85,586	662,721
Additions during the year	–	6,398	6,398
Disposals	–	(5,167)	(5,167)
At 31 December 2011	<b>577,135</b>	<b>86,817</b>	<b>663,952</b>
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2011	11,543	76,406	87,949
Charge for the year	11,543	5,166	16,709
On disposals	–	(5,151)	(5,151)
At 31 December 2011	<b>23,086</b>	<b>76,421</b>	<b>99,507</b>
<b>Net book amount</b>			
At 31 December 2011	<b>554,049</b>	<b>10,396</b>	<b>564,445</b>
At 31 December 2010	565,592	9,180	574,772
<b>Debtors</b>		2011 £	2010 £
Trade debtors		10,435	1,321
Other debtors – VAT Repayable		–	10,164
Other debtors – VAT Reclaimable on Property Acquisition		–	100,625
		<b>10,435</b>	112,110

	2011 £	2010 £
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Trade creditors	57,589	55,270
New property – mortgage*	23,911	–
Corporation tax	11,080	8,597
Social security and other taxes	26,563	–
Deferred income – subscriptions	228,701	226,986
Deferred income – corporate accreditation	35,563	28,610
Deferred income – courses	37,166	27,597
Deferred income – other	280,859	262,815
Accruals	37,619	113,075
	<b>739,051</b>	722,950

**Creditors: amounts falling due over one year**

Amounts falling due within 2 and 5 years are:

New property – mortgage*	111,114	–
Amounts falling due over 5 years are:		
New property – mortgage*	144,220	–
	<b>255,334</b>	–

\* The mortgage is secured on the property,  
Unit 3 Riverside Business Park, Nottingham

**Other commitments**

At 31 December 2011, the company had annual commitments under operating leases as follows:

Leases which expire:	£	£
Between 1 and 5 years	<b>6,265</b>	2,412

**Share capital**

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have share capital. Every member of the Association undertakes to contribute such amount as maybe required (not exceeding £1) to the assets of the Association if it should be wound up.

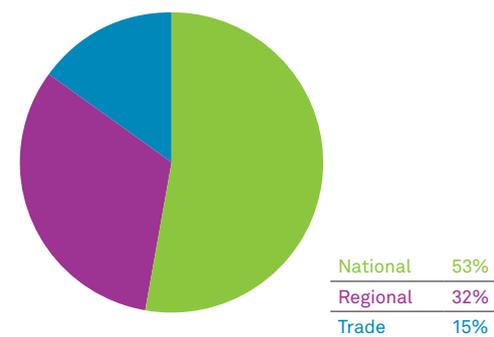
**Ultimate controlling party**

The company is limited by guarantee and has no shareholders. Under the constitution the Executive Committee is the ultimate controlling party.

**Detailed  
income and  
expenditure  
account  
Year ended  
31 December  
2011**

	2011	2010
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Membership (including other related income)	1,098,686	1,069,223
Conference, SIGS and regional meetings	606,836	614,258
Training events	844,812	910,390
Publishing	99,411	121,601
	<b>2,649,745</b>	2,715,472
<b>Direct expenditure</b>		
Membership (including other related expenditure)	56,450	45,326
Conference, SIGS and regional meetings	460,512	493,932
Training events	569,755	580,480
Legal affairs	16,374	12,196
Publishing and communications	119,675	96,110
	<b>(1,222,766)</b>	(1,228,044)
<b>Salaries and overhead expenditure</b>		
Staff costs (including training and recruitment)	951,034	903,776
Property costs	68,623	161,356
APIL stationery, postage and other costs	195,111	253,467
Staff travel	16,193	17,063
IT costs	6,388	6,998
Executive Committee	64,523	48,392
Depreciation	16,709	16,198
	<b>(1,318,581)</b>	(1,407,250)
Public Information Campaign – Special Project	(73,710)	(85,802)
<b>Operating surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>34,688</b>	(5,624)
Interest receivable	6,858	17,156
<b>Surplus of income over expenditure</b>	<b>41,546</b>	11,532

APIL press circulation



#### APIL in the media

Overall circulation reached in the print press during the year was 24,520,903, representing a 23 per cent increase on 2010.

The association's biggest success was achieving an increase in circulation for national newspaper coverage of 58 per cent.

#### Highlights

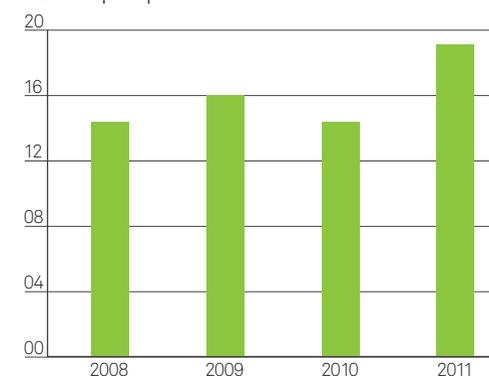
##### National press

APIL reached 13 million national newspaper readers on a variety of campaign issues. Highlights included comments in *The Daily Telegraph* about the Government's investigation into rising car insurance premiums; *The Times* and *Daily Mirror* in relation to access to justice following reforms to civil litigation costs; the *Metro* about the need for regulation in the hairdressing industry; and two letters in the *Daily Mail* in relation to motor insurers' behaviour and their role in increasing claims and premiums.

##### National radio

Immediate past president Muiris Lyons spoke live on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme ahead of an announcement by Ken Clarke on the proposed reforms of civil costs. Vice-president Karl Tonks was interviewed on *Today* moments before Jonathan Djanogly announced the proposed ban on referral fees. Muiris went head-to-head with Nick Starling on BBC Radio 5live's *Gabby Logan Show* about the need for a fund of last resort for workplace injuries.

National print press stories



Meanwhile, Karl took part in a debate on 5live with justice committee member Ben Gummer about the proposals to cut legal aid for clinical negligence cases. Several clips from APIL interviews were used during news bulletins on 20 other radio stations, including talkSport, BBC Radio 2's *The Chris Evans Breakfast Show* and various local stations.

##### National television

Following APIL's appearance at the Transport Select Committee, president David Bott was invited to speak on ITV1's *Tonight: The True Cost of a Car* about rising motor premiums. Karl Tonks told Channel 4 News presenter Krishnan Guru-Murthy that the proposed ban on referral fees would only serve to drive them underground. Meanwhile, chief executive Deborah Evans gave reaction to Sky News about Jack Straw's call for referral fees to be banned. Clips from Deborah's interview were also used on various radio stations. BBC One's *Watchdog* used a statement by APIL as part of its investigation into rising motor premiums.

##### National web coverage

APIL appeared on 20 national news websites, including [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk), [thetimes.co.uk](http://thetimes.co.uk), [guardian.co.uk](http://guardian.co.uk), [telegraph.co.uk](http://telegraph.co.uk), [mirror.co.uk](http://mirror.co.uk) and [skynews.com](http://skynews.com). Coverage included APIL comment on the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, the need for a fund of last resort for workplace injuries, the new claims process for road traffic accident claims and referral fees. Other coverage included fraud and Deborah's appointment as chief executive. The association also appeared in more than 80 stories on the websites of legal and insurance trade journals.



Lord McKenzie of Luton, Lord Rosser, Sir Bill Callaghan



#### Letters to the press

APIL members provided invaluable support in getting key messages to readers of local newspapers during the year. Many members put their names to letters for publication about proposed changes to civil costs, and the withdrawal by the new Government of the draft Civil Law Reform Bill. More than a hundred letters were printed in total, reaching a circulation of three million.

#### Safety Watch

Warnings to holidaymakers of the pitfalls with travel insurance, and advice on how to behave safely when walking through fields containing cows with calves at foot, were among APIL's Safety Watch campaigns for 2011.

The association also brought attention to the safety and regulatory implications of the forthcoming ban on under-18s using sunbeds, as both the Welsh and Northern Ireland assemblies consulted on provisions on operators. APIL discouraged the use of sunbeds, but called for eye protection to become more readily available for people who do use them.

APIL joined forces with the London Fire Brigade to put out the message that Carbon Monoxide detectors are as important as smoke alarms, in a regional press campaign for Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week.

APIL's prominent SafetyWatch campaign from 2010, about the risks of injury during hair treatments, carried over to 2011 to become a political campaign for regulation of hairdressers. Press coverage included a feature in the Manchester Evening News, with a case study provided by a member.

#### Campaigning on behalf of injured people: Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales

##### **Scotland**

#### Scottish Parliament

The Damages (Scotland) Act 2011 was passed by the Scottish Parliament before the election in May. The Act clarified who can claim damages following wrongful death, and how those damages should be calculated. During the passage of the Bill, APIL gave evidence to the Scottish Parliament Justice Committee, as well as providing briefings to Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Following the election, APIL initiated a contact-building programme with key MSPs, holding meetings with the new convenor, deputy convenor and other new members of the Scottish Parliament Justice Committee.

#### Legal reform

This year Sheriff Principal Taylor announced his review of expenses and funding of Civil Litigation. The review will run for around 18 months. It will compare Scotland's expenses regime with those in other jurisdictions and will consider the recommendations of Lord Justice Jackson. It will also examine affordability of litigation; the recoverability and assessment of expenses; different models of funding litigation including contingency, speculative and conditional fees, before and after the event insurance. There will also be some examination of referral fees and claims management.

Following Lord Gill's Civil Court Review in Scotland, the Scottish Government issued a consultation paper looking at establishing a Civil Justice Council in Scotland which was one of his recommendations. We agreed in principle

to the suggestion that a Council is created responsible for policy and rule making. We urged however for the need for its composition to be given further consideration to ensure that representatives are selected from members of the legal profession and are drawn from the main business of the civil court, namely, personal injury, family, and commercial disputes.

The Scottish Affairs Select Committee conducted its own inquiry into all aspects of health and safety in Scotland. We raised the issue of duplication of work between the HSE and the Procurator Fiscal Service. Any duplication in work obviously causes delay and cost. Following on from this, APIL gave oral evidence to the Committee.

##### **Wales**

#### National Assembly for Wales

The NHS (Concerns, Complaints and Redress Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2011 came into force on 1 April. The regulations change the way complaints are dealt with by the NHS in Wales, and APIL expressed its concern, in briefings to the Assembly, that the regulations provoke a serious conflict of interest, as it will be NHS bodies themselves who decide if they are liable for any mistakes.

#### Legal reform

APIL responded to the CICA's consultation on its proposed Welsh Language Scheme, which describes how the CICA will give effect to the principle of equality when providing services to the public in Wales. APIL was one of only two respondents to this consultation and expressed concern that despite the proposals, the CICA has no Welsh speakers in its employ who can converse with Welsh speakers on the phone in their native language.

##### **Northern Ireland**

#### Northern Ireland Assembly

Those who have pleural plaques in Northern Ireland were given the right to claim compensation by the Northern Ireland Assembly just before the Assembly's election in May. The Damages (Asbestos-related Conditions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 was passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly, and from 14 December 2011 sufferers were able to bring claims. APIL provided written evidence to the Committee for Finance and Personnel supporting the move to make pleural plaques compensatable.

Following the election, a contact-building programme was initiated in Northern Ireland, and meetings were held with Stewart Dickson MLA, member of the Justice Committee and Chief Whip of the Alliance Party; and with Ulster Unionist MLA Mike Nesbitt, a former Commissioner of Victims and Survivors in Northern Ireland.

#### Legal reform

APIL responded to eight consultations this year which specifically focused on Northern Ireland. Throughout the year we provided input to the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Services' (NICTS) Review of Access to Justice. The Review initially commenced in 2010, and APIL's work on this will continue in 2012. APIL advised that personal injury claims should remain within the scope of legal aid due to the costs recoverable in money damages cases. The Association also supported the claimant's retention of their own damages rather than their erosion to pay for legal costs.

Ahead of the Sunbeds Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 coming into force in April 2012, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) consulted on specific regulations to be included within the Act. APIL called for tougher sanctions on those who ignore the law.

Following the announcement of an increase in the jurisdictional limits of the County Courts in Northern Ireland the NICTS consulted on proposals to increase the scale costs. APIL has proposed the introduction of pre-action protocols across all courts and for a costs drawer to be engaged to propose effective scale costs that reflect the level of ancillary work that has been adopted in recent years.

The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland also consulted on amendments to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 (RIDDOR). As in England and Wales, the HSENI consulted on implementing Lord Young's proposal to extend the period for reporting injuries from over three days to over seven.

### Public information campaign

Money invested in instructing external communications agency McCann Erickson to conduct a public information campaign failed to generate the expected results. This led to the executive committee's decision to terminate the spend as soon as was practicable.

### Events and networking

#### Education, training and conferences

##### Catastrophic injuries

APIL ran its second residential catastrophic injuries conference in Cirencester in June. Well over 100 delegates and exhibitors had the opportunity to listen to eminent experts and practitioners covering brain and spinal cord injury cases, amputations and fatalities.

##### Rehabilitation

A rehabilitation conference ran in December 2011, sponsored by Argent Rehabilitation. Presentations included pain management, occupational and physiotherapy, psychiatry, neuropsychology and neuroscience.

##### Clinical negligence

The clinical negligence residential conference was held at the De Vere Carden Park, Chester. Over 180 practitioners listened to experts dealing with antenatal, perinatal and neonatal brain injury. APIL members Roger Wicks and Christopher Limb developed the comprehensive programme.

##### Training programme

The 2011 training schedule was another wide-ranging and extremely extensive programme. 123 courses and one day conferences ran throughout the year. These included the PI update series which ran across 13 locations nationwide. Following member requests and suggestions, several new courses were scheduled, including *advanced procedure and tactics for lawyers and quantum for clinical negligence*, along with two one-day conferences, on costs and funding and an RTA conference which ran in conjunction with the JPIL board.

##### Certificate modules

The APIL certificate underwent an extensive review during 2011 and several changes were made to the structure to make the certificate modules more appropriate to delegates' needs. The number of modules was reduced from eight to five: four core modules and a choice of one specialist module.

### In house training

In all, 41 in-house courses were delivered this year. A number of new firms took up the in-house option, including one in Northern Ireland, and many applied for or continued their accreditation. Of the 41 courses, four were consortiums including a new consortium which ran in Swansea.

### Webinars

This year 11 webinars were transmitted from the APIL offices in Nottingham. Subjects covered in the programme included procedure, costs and damages as well as crucial updates on the "Implications of the Justice Bill" and "Jackson".

### Membership, regional and special interest groups

A total of 52 regional, special interest and membership group meetings were held this year. In addition, three regional forums were held in Birmingham, Manchester and London providing updates on procedure, damages, costs, clinical negligence, and APIL activities to over 180 members.

### Information technology

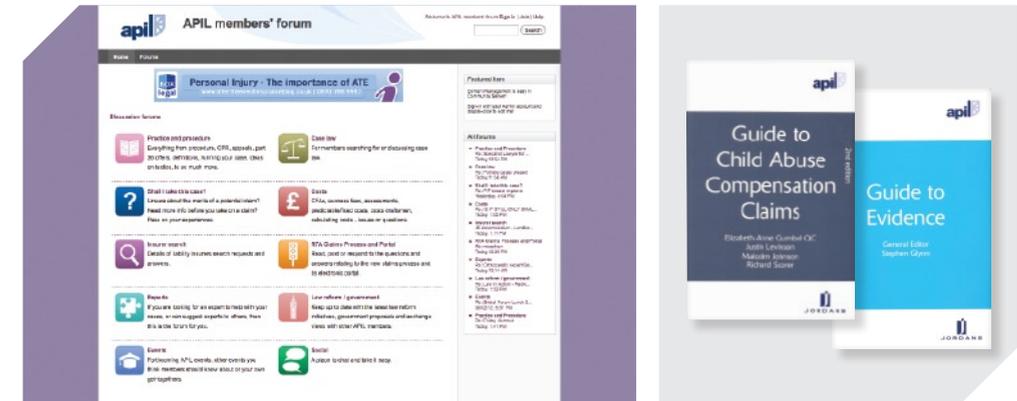
#### Online activity

Over 56,000 lawyer searches have been made on the site this year. The online expert database remained a popular facility, with over 2,000 searches being completed every month.

Overall visits to the APIL website remained high for the year with over 215,000 visits from 59,000 unique persons. The members' forum remains our most popular online area and continues to provide an essential platform for lawyers to request assistance and share their knowledge.

#### Information Exchange service and discussion forums

The APIL discussion forums form part of the Information Exchange and members interact with the APIL office and the legal information manager either through their online discussions or by direct contact (phone/email). This year, there was more interaction and requests for information via the forums, than by direct email contact, and this is part of a continuing trend as more members become used to using social media as a means of communication with the APIL office. A survey of forum visitors was conducted at the end of 2011, with results due to be published in the new year.



### Apil.org.uk

A great deal of work was carried out in the latter quarter of 2011, in preparation for launch of the new consumer website on 6 January 2012.

A leased line broadband connection was installed providing corporate quality internet access to the APIL website. The web server and database were upgraded allowing pages and files to load more quickly.

### My CPD

Accredited members can now keep a record of their continuing professional development (CPD) through "My CPD" on the website. Training carried out at APIL events is populated automatically and external training can be added by selecting from numerous providers.

### Experts

As at 31 December, 785 experts were registered on the database. Experts can now join the database and renew their listing via the website's e-commerce system. The 'My details' section has been expanded to allow experts full control over their online and printed listings. Additionally, a new 'Ask the expert' section has been introduced to allow lawyers to speak directly with specialists and pose questions. Further benefits were added to the enhanced option this year, including reductions on the cost of advertising with APIL and discounts off mailing list purchases. A rolling subscription year for experts has also been introduced.

### Books and other publications

#### Membership Directory

Published in October, the 2011/2012 Membership Directory was circulated to all members. The directory contains contact and accreditation details of APIL members, along with contact information for key organisations, executive committee members and group co-ordinators and secretaries.

#### Expert and Rehabilitation Services Directory

Over 700 experts were included in the fourth edition of this directory.

#### APIL Guides

Two new APIL guides have been published for APIL by Jordan Publishing this year. They are: *APIL Guide to Child Abuse Compensation Claims* by Elisabeth-Anne Gumbel QC, Justin Levinson, Malcolm Johnson and Richard Scorer and; *APIL Guide to Evidence*, by Stephen Glynn. In addition, APIL's *Personal Injury loose-leaf* continues to hold its own in sales and renewals. Similarly, the quarterly *Journal of Personal Injury Law (JPIL)* published for APIL by Sweet and Maxwell, continues to be one of that publisher's best sellers.

#### PI Focus

APIL's membership publication carried a series of articles examining the potential effects of the Legal Services Act this year as the profession readied itself for organisational and regulatory change. Articles this year also included those on the RTA Portal, experts' loss of immunity from suit and a special traumatic brain injury issue.



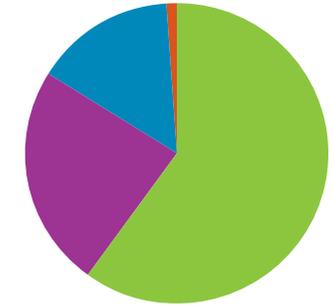
## Statistics

### Executive Committee

Attendance at executive committee meetings (maximum of seven) January – December 2011

David Bott, President <sup>A</sup> Bott & Co, Wilmslow	7	John McQuater <sup>F,I</sup> Atherton Godfrey, Doncaster	2
Karl Tonks, Vice President <sup>B</sup> Fentons, Manchester	5	Victoria Mortimer-Harvey Pattinson & Brewer, London	7
Stephen Lawson, Secretary <sup>C</sup> Forshaws Davies Ridgway, Frodsham	7	John Spencer <sup>G,J</sup> Spencers Solicitors, Chesterfield	5
Christopher Limb, Treasurer <sup>D</sup> St John Street Chambers, Manchester	6	Matthew Stockwell St Johns Building Chambers, Liverpool	5
Muiris Lyons, Immediate Past President <sup>E</sup> Stewarts Law, London	5	Neil Sugarman <sup>G</sup> GLP Solicitors, Bury	7
Cenric Clement-Evans <sup>G</sup> Hugh James, Cardiff/New Law, Cardiff	6	Nigel Tomkins Nigel Tomkins Consultancy, Whatton	5
Gordon Dalyell Digby Brown, Edinburgh	6	Mark Turnbull <sup>G</sup> Thompsons, Liverpool	6
Stephen Gray <sup>H,I</sup> Gray Magee, Belfast	1	Jonathan Wheeler <sup>G</sup> Bolt Burdon Kemp, London	7
Martin Hanna <sup>G,J</sup> Francis Hanna & Co, Belfast	4		
Jane Horton Irwin Mitchell, Leeds	5		
Michael Imperato Russell Jones Walker, Cardiff/New Law Cardiff	6		
Stuart Kightley Osbornes, London	6		

- A Elected as president at AGM: 14 April 2011  
 B Elected as vice president at AGM: 14 April 2011  
 C Re-elected as secretary at AGM: 14 April 2011  
 D Re-elected as treasurer at AGM: 14 April 2011  
 E Post as president ended at AGM: 14 April 2011  
 F Post as immediate past president ended at AGM: 14 April 2011  
 G Elected at AGM: 14 April 2011  
 H Did not stand for re-election  
 I Out of a possible two meetings prior to AGM  
 J Out of a possible five meetings post election at AGM



Senior Litigators	53%
Litigators	24%
Fellows	15%
Senior Fellows	1%

### Membership

With 728 new members recruited in 2011, the total membership of APIL by the year end was 4,784. Additionally, 4,056 members renewed their membership, resulting in an attrition rate of 13.22 per cent.

#### As at 31 December 2011

Practitioners <sup>*</sup>	4,243
Non practising members <sup>*</sup>	21
Honorary life members	14
Barristers in chambers <sup>*</sup>	164
Paralegals	214
Students	21
Academics (no web members)	11
Overseas	96
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,784</b>

<sup>\*</sup> included within practitioner members on page 21

### Accreditation

Figures as at 31 December 2011 illustrated above:

Senior Litigators	809
Litigators	313
Fellows	197
Senior Fellows	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1329</b>

- 254 Corporate accredited firms  
 72 In-house accredited firms  
 44 Externally accredited training providers

A total of 161 new individuals were accredited, an increase of 67 (58 per cent) on last year. In addition, many members upgraded their accreditation status.

**APIL officers and  
executive committee  
members 2011**



**David Bott**  
President  
Bott & Co, Wilmslow



**John McQuater**  
(Immediate past president until  
14.04.2011)  
Atherton Godfrey,  
Doncaster



**Jane Horton**  
Irwin Mitchell, Leeds



**Matthew Stockwell**  
St Johns Building  
Chambers, Liverpool



**Karl Tonks**  
Vice President  
Fentons, Manchester



**Cenric Clement-Evans**  
Hugh James, Cardiff /  
New Law, Cardiff



**Michael Imperato**  
Russell Jones Walker,  
Cardiff / New Law,  
Cardiff



**Neil Sugarman**  
GLP Solicitors, Bury



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