

Employment Injury Assistance Consultation

Disability Benefits Policy Team

Social Security Policy

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Building a Brighter Future  
for Injured People

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24 June 2024

By email only: [eiaconsultation@gov.scot](mailto:eiaconsultation@gov.scot)

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Next steps on delivery of Employment Injury Assistance**

APIL is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the Scottish Government's consultation regarding the next steps in the delivery of Employment Injury Assistance. While we agree that several gaps in the current scheme need addressing, APIL believes that there should be a full transfer of all current Scottish cases within the Industrial Injuries Scheme to the Employment Injury Assistance Scheme, and then consideration should be given to how to modernise and address the issues with the scheme. We agree that the overriding priority should be the safe and secure transfer of awards to ensure people do not face a disruption to their benefit payment.

We seek reassurance that, should the Scottish Government proceed with option 2, those who currently receive the benefit will continue to do so. We have reservations about any approach that would create a two-tier system while the cases are being transferred. Additionally, APIL has emphasised in previous responses that coordination between the welfare systems of England and Scotland is crucial, as there may be individuals who reside in England and work in Scotland, and vice versa.

Our members report that they encourage their clients to apply for this benefit. We are concerned about potential changes to the current format without a wider consultation focusing on the issues within the current scheme. The consultation document states that there are only a small number of individuals benefiting from this assistance. This benefit is essential to those who receive it, providing vital support where a person is injured through their employment.

We suspect that a proportion of individuals who should be eligible for the benefit are not claiming it. There are fewer than 1,000 new applications per year under the Scheme in Scotland, according to the consultation paper. In contrast, there are an estimated 136,000 work-related ill-health cases (new or long-standing) annually.<sup>1</sup> The equality challenges mentioned in the consultation must be addressed and eligibility criteria must be reviewed as soon as the benefit administration is transferred to Scotland. The list of conditions and diseases should also be updated.

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<sup>1</sup> Health and Safety Executive, *Workplace health and safety statistics for Scotland 2023* – page 5 accessed online at <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/scotland-statistics.pdf>

APIL believes that establishing a stakeholder group now, for further discussion of next steps, would be beneficial before the Scottish Government decides which option to take forward.

We hope our comments prove useful to you.

Sincerely,



Ana Ramos

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