

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)

Consumer Panel

List of organisations who are members of the Panel:

Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) - <http://www.spinal.co.uk/>



Headway - <https://www.headway.org.uk/home.aspx>



Mesothelioma UK - <http://www.mesothelioma.uk.com/>



Aspire - <http://www.aspire.org.uk/>



Roadpeace - <http://www.roadpeace.org/>



RoSPA (nominated representative) - <http://www.rospa.com/>



Lay member

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) Consumer Panel

Terms of Reference

Remit

1. Association of Personal Injury Lawyers' (APIL) Consumer Panel ('the Panel') is established under the APIL Senior Management Board (SMB) to represent and reflect the wider interests of consumers.
2. The Panel will:
 - a) Represent the interests of consumers by advising, commenting and making recommendations on existing and developing APIL documents and practices as appropriate;
 - b) Speak on behalf of consumers by reviewing, monitoring and reporting to APIL on the effectiveness of APIL's policies and practices in pursuing its aims;
 - c) Keep under review and influence actual and potential developments in personal injury legal services to enable it to fulfil a) and b) effectively.
3. The emphasis of the Panel's work is on activities that are consumer-related and consumer-facing. It may also look at the impact on consumers of activities outside but related to APIL's remit.
4. The Panel will have regard to the interests of all groups of consumers including those who are particularly disadvantaged in the context of personal injury law, including consumers who have little or no access to personal injury services.
5. The Panel can consider other matters that assist it in carrying out its primary functions.
6. The main purpose of the Panel is to provide advice to APIL. As such it does not carry out responsibilities on behalf of APIL. For example, members of the Panel will not represent APIL at stakeholder meetings and/or policy forums.

Work

1. The Panel shall review and finalise its terms of reference within six months of its inaugural meeting. As part of the finalised terms of reference the frequency of Panel meetings and timeframe for the annual programme of work will be agreed and detailed. The Panel and SMB shall review the Panel's terms of reference annually.
2. The Panel and the SMB shall agree an annual programme of work for the Panel. The Panel shall carry out such additional work, as agreed with the SMB, in response to developments in the personal injury legal services market.

3. The Panel shall ordinarily publish its representations, advice and research. However, it may choose not to publish its representations, advice and research if it considers that to do so would be likely to impact adversely on the interests of consumers.
4. The Panel shall publish the agenda and minutes of its meetings.
5. The Panel shall contribute to APIL's Annual Report in terms of its work, with any pertinent points being fed back to APIL's Executive Committee (EC).

Structure

6. Panel members will be identified by APIL's SMB, and approached and appointed by APIL's Chief Executive. The Panel should be comprised of no more than 12 non-APIL members (and should ideally consist of between 4 to 6 non-APIL members) who are able to provide evidence of the experience of the wide range of consumers of personal injury legal services. The Chair will be appointed by APIL's Chief Executive. Secretariat services will be provided by APIL, with the Panel being independent of APIL in terms of monetary compensation, with all members being paid for their expenses only.
7. The SMB will attend meetings, when necessary, as ex-officio members and provide the Panel with updates on issues specifically effecting personal injury legal services consumers as appropriate.

Miles Burger

Head of Research

Last revised: 29th August 2013