

Had an accident?

The facts about personal injury compensation

Unfortunately, accidents happen. Over 3 million people are injured every year in some type of accident on the roads, at work, on pavements and in countless other places.

Although any one of them may be entitled to compensation, surprisingly few people consider making a claim. Of those who do, some 90% are successful. Here are some of the facts about injury, compensation and the law.

Why is compensation paid?

Historically the courts and parliament took the view, quite properly, that those injured through the neglect of others should be compensated.

In this country, the emphasis is on compensating people for what they have actually suffered or lost, compared with the American system where all too often victims seem to profit from their claims.

Who is entitled to compensation?

Anyone injured in an accident may be entitled to compensation if someone or something else is to blame. Even if it seems that no-one was to blame, it's still worth talking to a specialist lawyer. Many people who initially believed that their misfortune could not be blamed on anyone but themselves have gone on to make successful claims.

Why don't more people claim?

There are many reasons why people are reluctant to claim: some fear that it will be expensive, some are wary of going to court and others believe that the person they think is to blame would not be able to afford to pay compensation. In very many cases these worries are unfounded.

The advantage of taking legal advice is that you can ask a specialist lawyer about all these matters. Initial advice is free and with no obligation, as we explain below.

How can I get free advice?

It is our policy to offer free advice to help people decide whether or not they can make a claim.

If you have been injured in an accident, you can have a free consultation with a lawyer who specialises in injury claims.

During that discussion, you can find out whether you have a good case, how to go about claiming and how much you might claim.

Is there any obligation?

After the free initial consultation you should have a clear understanding of your position. You are under no obligation to take the matter further if you decide not to.

How much compensation could I get?

There is no magic formula for calculating compensation. It is a flexible system designed to compensate you for any injuries, losses or expenses that you have suffered as a result of the accident.

The size of the claim depends on individual circumstances. Compensation might be claimed for pain and suffering, lost earnings and personal belongings damaged in the accident.

It might also include knock-on costs such as private medical treatment, a holiday cancellation fee or carer's fees.

What does it cost?

Don't be put off by the fear that you cannot afford to make a claim. There are several ways in which legal help can be funded.

In our experience, when someone has a strong case there is rarely a problem regardless of their financial circumstances.

For example, we have successfully run many cases under 'no-win no-fee' arrangements.

At the initial free consultation, we will explain the options open to you so that you can make an informed decision.

Who would handle my case?

Our personal injury department is run by Nick Richardson, a highly experienced lawyer and member of the Law Society's Personal Injury Panel.

Your initial free assessment would generally be with Nick and he would manage your case through to its conclusion.

Should I make a claim?

There are many reasons why people are reluctant to claim: some fear that it will be expensive, some are wary of going to court and others believe that the person they think is to blame would not be able to afford to pay compensation. In very many cases these worries are unfounded.

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