

# Legal update

## Whiplash Reforms on Hold

### Introduction

Following the personal injury reforms proposed by the previous Chancellor of the Exchequer in his 2015 Autumn Statement, the market has been eagerly anticipating further details. There have been many false starts with varying dates for announcements predicted with Brexit and the change in government being the main perceived causes of delay. There have been reports in the national and trade press that those planned reforms have been put on hold, to be reconsidered an unspecified later date.

### The position

Whilst no formal announcement has yet to be made by the MOJ, it was reported in The Times that the an unnamed source at the Ministry of Justice ("MOJ") has said that Ministers have told insurers that they are unenthusiastic about the planned reforms but that whiplash and small claims track reforms are "*certainly not off the agenda*", leaving open the possibility of them being resurrected at a later date. Mention has also been made of other proposals potentially being considered and rolled out in conjunction with any future review. However, given the current government's expressed lack of enthusiasm in relation to the reforms and stated intention to focus on prison reforms for now, the prospect of any fundamental change in the immediate to short term would appear to have now fallen away.

It remains to be seen whether there will be a similar view taken of the proposed online Briggs court structure reforms and the expansion of fixed costs regimes across a variety of civil matters. With the MOJ statement on Transforming our justice system: summary of reforms and consultation issued on 16 September 2016 currently remaining live on the MOJ website it would appear, that for the moment at least, that these reforms remain very much on the agenda.

### Can we help?

We will be maintaining a watching brief and will report back to clients as soon as there is any further detail. In the meantime, should you wish to discuss this in more detail, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



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