

Ms. Breda Power
Assistant Secretary
Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
Earlsfort Centre
Lower Hatch Street
Dublin 2.

July 2014

Public Consultation on the operation and implementation of the Personal Injuries
Assessment Board Acts, 2003 and 2007

Dear Ms. Power,

I refer to your recent correspondence dated 19th June 2014 regarding the public consultation on the operation and implementation of the Personal Injuries Assessment Board Act, 2003 and 2007.

I can confirm that your request for input was circulated to all divisions within the Department. A response from the National Disability Authority is attached at Appendix 1.

This Department is of the view that the remit of the Personal Injuries Assessment Board (PIAB) may be affected by the work currently being undertaken to draft legislation to introduce a periodic payment facility in catastrophic personal injury cases. A Working Group, comprising relevant Government Departments, including the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, and State Agencies, is currently examining the technical issues that arise in the drafting of such legislation. One of the issues that has arisen is the possibility of PIAB being able to offer Periodic Payment Orders (PPOs). A decision to allow PIAB to award PPOs may require amendment of the PIAB Acts.

Finally, I am to advise that An Garda Síochána and the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission may have observations in relation to this request. As of today's date, they have not been received. Should they come to hand in the near future they will be forwarded on accordingly.

Yours sincerely,


D. Griffin
Private Secretary to the Secretary General

PIAB Liaison Unit

14 JUL 2014

Cuirfear Mike roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge

Appendix 1

The National Disability Authority is the independent statutory advisory body on disability policy and practice. We see it as very important that the structures around compensation for personal injuries would promote and not delay rehabilitation for persons who acquire a disability.

We are currently working with other Government Departments on a comprehensive employment strategy for people with disabilities, where a key strategic aim is to reduce the outflow from employment of adults who acquire a disability during the course of their working life. Effective early rehabilitation, with good links to employment supports, are a key element in achieving this aim.

The Personal Injuries Assessment Board Acts have resulted in a speedier and more efficient settlement of personal injury claims. In particular, the avoidance of protracted court procedures, a consensual approach to establishing the extent of injuries and the schedule of quantum of damages, offer a framework which is more conducive to early rehabilitation than the adversarial court process.

Another important element in the overall framework will be the introduction of promised legislation allowing the courts to make interim awards.