



PRESS RELEASE

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MINISTERS AGREE U-TURN ON PLANS TO RAID BRAIN-DAMAGED BABIES OF CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE COMPENSATION

Action against Medical Accidents ('AvMA' - the charity for patient safety and justice) has welcomed an announcement by the Ministry of Justice that ministers have decided not to go ahead with controversial proposals for a 'Supplementary Legal aid Scheme'. This would have seen the Ministry of Justice deducting 25% from the damages awarded to brain-damaged babies in clinical negligence cases in order to subsidise its legal aid expenditure on other areas of law. AvMA has been campaigning against the proposals and had warned that had the Ministry of Justice gone ahead the charity would consider challenging the decision by way of a judicial review.

Peter Walsh, Chief Executive of AvMA, said:

"We are grateful to the new ministers at the Ministry of Justice for recognising the gross unfairness and irrationality of their predecessors' plans. We hope that this more enlightened approach will lead to further changes to protect access to justice for victims of clinical negligence. It beggars belief that their predecessors were prepared to raid the damages of children brain-damaged by clinical negligence to subsidise their department".

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