

personal injury UPDATE

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Welcome to the spring Forum Law personal injury update, this issue features a wide range of personal injury cases and their outcomes. I hope you find it informative and please feel free to visit our website to read more in our legal news section and case studies area.

At Forum Law we are proud to be the only law firm that is a member of the Institute of Customer Service. We know that personal injury and compensation cases can be stressful and difficult, and we want to make every client experience as positive as possible, our personal injury legal team are on hand 24 hours a day to help you make your compensation claim.

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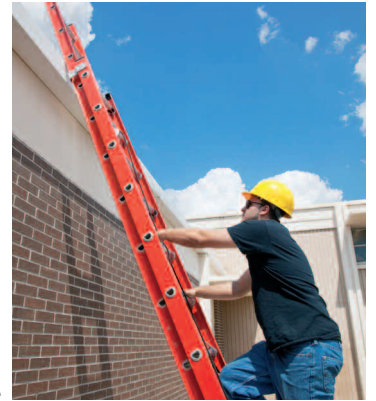
man wins £450,000 after fall from ladder

An electrical engineer who had his leg amputated below the knee after an accident at work has won £450,000 in compensation.

Keith Waring was working up a 13-foot ladder removing external cabling from the side of a house when the accident happened. The cabling gave way and he fell backwards, landing heavily on a paved patio area. Even though he landed on his feet, both Mr Waring's ankles were very badly fractured. In hospital, he had to have an external fixator attached to his right ankle in order to hold the bone in place. However, the injuries to his left ankle were so serious that he had to have his leg amputated below the knee. Mr Waring

now has to wear an artificial limb on his left leg and still has to keep the external fixator on his right leg. As a result of the accident, his life has changed completely: he is now unable to do many of the things he used to enjoy.

A claim was brought against Mr Waring's former employer, alleging that it had not taken the steps necessary to ensure the safety of its employee. Employers have a duty to protect staff from foreseeable accidents. In this situation, the company should have ensured that Mr Waring had undergone appropriate training to carry out the work. Furthermore, had he been provided with a safety harness or had scaffolding been erected in order to enable him to carry out the work, the accident could have been avoided. The company involved admitted liability and Mr Waring was awarded £450,000 in compensation.



Employers have a duty to make sure that employees have a safe working environment. In the year 2007/2008, a total of 58 workers died and over 3,600 suffered major injury as a result of a fall from height in the workplace. Many of these accidents could have been prevented by using the right equipment and taking simple precautions. This includes carrying out a risk assessment if the use of ladders or stepladders is necessary. If you are injured in an accident at work because of inadequate health and safety measures, please contact us to discuss your claim.

£90,000 for british holidaymaker injured in Malaysia



A British holidaymaker who was badly injured in a crash while on a bus tour in Malaysia has been awarded £90,000 in compensation at the High Court.

Gail Griffin, 46, and her husband were on an adventure holiday when the accident happened. Mrs Griffin and her husband were both injured in the accident, along with 11 fellow passengers.

The injuries sustained by Mrs Griffin have had a long-lasting effect. She still suffers with chronic pain in both her back and legs, which often causes her to wake in the middle of the night. Medical experts called in to give their opinion on Mrs Griffin's condition confirmed that the debilitating effects of her injury mean that she is now only able to work part-time.

The court awarded Mrs Griffin £90,000 in compensation. The settlement took into account the pain and suffering from the injury as well as Mrs Griffin's loss of future earnings.

If you have suffered an injury while on holiday in the UK or in another country, it may be possible to claim compensation. Claims relating to holidays in the UK can usually be dealt with in the same way as other personal injury claims. Claims involving holidays abroad can be pursued in the British courts if the holiday was part of a deal purchased through a holiday company based in the UK and blame can be attached to them or their representatives.

Please contact us if you would like claims advice.

£280,000 for healthcare worker with latex allergy

The case of a healthcare worker who had to abandon her career because of a potentially fatal allergy to latex has finally been settled.

Fiona Moore, 37, worked in the dermatology department at York Hospital. She developed an allergy to latex protein as a result of wearing powdered latex gloves in the course of her work. As the condition worsened, she was no longer able to wear the gloves and was later dismissed as the hospital management said she was unable to do her job properly.

Mrs Moore's allergy has changed her life completely, leaving her anxious and frightened of going outside in case she comes into contact with latex and suffers an allergic reaction. She is now classed as disabled and is unable to find alternative employment. Office work is not possible because she is allergic to rubber bands.

Items that could trigger her allergy are as varied as bananas, hot water bottles, balloons, some fabrics and even carpet underlay.

After bringing a claim against her former employer, Mrs Moore has secured £280,000 in compensation.

Latex allergies have become increasingly common amongst people who have to wear gloves at work for hygiene reasons. The allergy is caused by the body becoming hypersensitive to latex and over-reacting to its presence.

If you develop an allergic condition from an irritant used in your workplace, make sure your employer is aware of the problem. If your employer fails to take appropriate action, you may be entitled to compensation.

compensation settlement for boy injured in nursery fall



A boy who was left with severe brain damage after he was injured in a fall at a children's nursery has been awarded a sizeable settlement in compensation.

The accident happened when James Pitcher was just nine months old. He fell off a changing table and suffered head injuries that were so serious that he was left quadriplegic.

He now has to be fed through a tube, cannot breathe properly

and requires 24-hour care. It is thought unlikely that he will live beyond the age of 15.

A compensation claim was brought against the carer and the nursery involved and also against the hospital that treated James, as there was a delay in diagnosing his head injury. Liability for the injuries was admitted by all the parties involved.

Last year, the High Court awarded James's father, Nigel Pitcher, an interim payment of £320,000 to help James's family look after him. The money was used to purchase and adapt a property so that his care needs could be met.

The full amount of the claim, however, was only settled recently in the High Court when a confidential agreement was reached and approved by the judge. Lawyers for James had originally asked for more than £5 million in compensation. Settlements in cases where the person injured is very young are normally high.

If your child has been injured in an accident whilst in the care of a school or childcare facility, it may be possible to bring a claim for compensation.

Please contact us for advice on your individual circumstances.

cyclist struck at crossing wins

£60,000

A cyclist hit by a car at a pedestrian crossing has won compensation for his injuries.

The unnamed 35-year-old was using a pedestrian crossing while the green man signal was showing. A car travelling towards the crossing failed to stop at the red light and knocked the man off his bicycle.

The accident left the man with a seriously fractured leg which led to further medical complications. As a result, he had to take time off work and was subsequently made redundant from his job.

The motorist in this case was clearly at fault. After the cyclist brought a personal injury claim, a compensation settlement of £60,000 was agreed.

There are now more than 3 million regular cyclists on the roads in the UK and the number of accidents has risen in recent years. Over 16,000 cyclists are injured each year and it is thought that between 60 per cent and 90 per cent of accidents are not reported.

If you have been injured as a result of an accident on the road that was not your fault, whether you were a motorist, cyclist or pedestrian, you may be entitled to compensation. Please contact us for advice.



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