

Dear Sirs,

Your article 'Vulture Lawyers Bleed NHS For £418m' rightly exposed how some law firms pursuing compensation for patients use the no win no fee system to obtain "grossly inflated" fees that should instead be spent on patient care. The Society of Radiographers, the trade union and professional body representing radiographers, has similar concerns.

Your call for Government to look again at rules governing no win no fee litigation is important but Government attempts to cap fees fail to address the problem.

We need a wide ranging review of all options including looking at how patients can be compensated without having to use the adversarial legal process. This approach has the added advantage of allowing healthcare professionals to learn lessons when things go wrong.

Your article quotes legal firms who blame the NHS for not admitting liability earlier in many cases. If mistakes can be investigated without the need to assess liability, there can be a more open examination of events, staff can learn and quickly share lessons and compensation paid without delay. A win win for patients and the tax payer which also ends payment of the huge fees to law firms exposed in your article.

Yours sincerely,
Paul Moloney