

Client alert: The UK Ministry of Justice announces decision on whiplash reform

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On 23 February 2017, the Ministry of Justice of the United Kingdom has published Part 1 of its response to the 'Reforming the soft tissue injury ('whiplash') claims process' consultation which closed on 6 January 2017. Ministers have considered and made a number of policy decisions, including:

- the introduction of a tariff of fixed compensation for pain, suffering, and loss of amenity for claims with an injury duration of between 0 and 24 months;
- providing the judiciary with the facility to both decrease the amount awarded under the tariff in cases where there may be contributory negligence or to increase the award (with increases capped at no more than 20%) in exceptional circumstances;
- introducing a ban on both the offering and requesting of offers to settle claims without medical evidence.

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These measures will be introduced through provisions in the Prisons and Courts Bill. Part 2 of the government response will be published in due course.

There have not been any discussions on the issue of whiplash claims in Cyprus so far but following this decision by the UK Ministry of Justice it is likely that a similar debate will emerge. In any event, it is expected that the 4th directive claims coming from the UK against Cypriot insurance companies as well as the amounts paid shall be reduced.

For more information on the decision of the UK Ministry of Justice click [here](#) or contact us at info@harriskyriakides.law.

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