



PRESS RELEASE

DATE: OCTOBER 18TH 2011

BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS TO COMBAT FRAUD

Key Industry figures agree to work together

Representatives from the Association of British Insurers, Insurance Fraud Bureau (IFB), Motor Insurers Bureau, Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, Solicitors Regulation Authority, Ministry of Justice, Law Society, Forum of Insurance Lawyers; Claims Standards Council, City of London Police, the insurer Allianz and the National Fraud Authority, met together on 13 October 2011 for the first time specifically to discuss working collaboratively to combat fraud.

Organised and chaired by the Motor Accident Solicitors Society (MASS) the meeting centred on whether the insurance industry could work collaboratively with the claimant law firm community to reduce fraud, and what role the regulators and representative bodies could play to assist.

Historically, claimant law firms have been excluded in the insurance industry exchange of information and intelligence regarding fraud, but especially previous claims history of an individual. Consequently they have been working in the dark, whereas insurers and their defendant law firms would have access to information which may lead them to suspect or allege fraud.

Donna Scully, Chairman of MASS stated; "For too long now the claimant community has been excluded from intelligence on fraud. Consequently, after discussions with the IFB we felt that a meeting to bring everyone together could be a golden opportunity to try and break down the barriers and proactively work as an industry to combat fraud.

One of the initiatives discussed was to explore adapting the current IFB web-based Portal which is being rolled to insurers, and provide specific Portal functionality for claimant law firms. This would provide an on-line tool for them to search claims history in an on-demand manner and help identify any anomalies that may arise.

All present at the meeting agreed that this would be a logical and sensible approach and would play a part in reducing fraud. Whilst it would not be a silver bullet, it would go a long way in breaching the gap on the information available and play a part in reducing fraud. With other issues discussed, the Portal concept was viewed as being simple and achievable and the first step of a process that could provide other initiatives for the industry to fight fraud collaboratively.

Contd/....

Scully added; "We are grateful for everyone's participation in this meeting which has been an excellent start in what is hoped to be the beginning of a long and proactive future in fighting fraud. Fraud benefits no-one and only increases the costs to all involved. Any initiative that helps to reduce fraudulent claims can only be good – good for the industry and ultimately, we hope, good for the honest motorist in the form of reduced motor insurance premiums.

Glen Marr, Director of the IFB commented: "Anything that assists in rooting out and preventing insurance fraud as early as possible, should be embraced. Insurers have already clearly demonstrated that collaboration is at the very heart of successful fraud prevention. This immediately feels like a logical and achievable step, and the IFB are now working with MASS to explore the concept further, before reporting back to the group that met last week".

ENDS

Notes to editors:

MASS is a non-profit making national association of solicitors who specialise in road traffic accidents, representing the accident victim. Formed in 1991, MASS promotes the highest standards of legal services through education and representation in the pursuit of justice for the victims of road traffic accidents. MASS comprises 190 solicitor firms that employ over 2,000 legal staff, throughout the UK. Collectively member firms conduct in excess of 600,000 road traffic accident personal injury claims each year.

The victim, and what is in their best interests, must remain at the centre of the debate. Our goal in this debate is to both protect the rights and interests of consumers who are victims of genuine road traffic accidents as our constitutional objective.

The meeting consisted of representatives from the following:

Motor Accident Solicitors Society (MASS)
Insurance Fraud Bureau (IFB)
Association of British Insurers' (ABI)
Ministry of Justice
Law Society
Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)
National Fraud Authority (NFA)
Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)
Forum of Insurance Lawyers (FOIL)
City of London Police
Motor Insurance Bureau
Claims Standards Council
Allianz Insurance

Press Enquiries:

Gary Squires at Creatrix PR
Tel: 01225 423400 or email gary@creatrixpr.co.uk