

Michele O'Boyle,  
President,  
Law Society of Ireland,  
Blackhall Place,  
Dublin 7

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Ms O'Boyle,

I am writing to you regarding remarks attributed to you in a Law Society press release on 30<sup>th</sup> September, which were repeated in the Irish Legal News on 1<sup>st</sup> October: *"Ms O'Boyle stated there is no evidence that the capping of damages will lead to the lowering of premiums by the insurance industry for their business and personal customers."*

In the five years after the introduction of PIAB in 2003, motor insurance costs fell by 46%, without any decrease in damages paid to plaintiffs. This fall was associated solely with the removal of legal costs from motor claims, and according to the data published by the Central Statistics Office, this was passed on to motorists.

More data published by the Central Bank last December showed that in claims valued below €100,000 (the majority of all personal injury claims), legal costs averaged 63% of the total, significantly more than the damages paid to plaintiffs. Your concern for the cost of insurance to policy-holders rings very hollow in this regard.

Therefore, even in a situation where legal costs make up the bulk of the cost of settled claims, ISME considers it demonstrably untrue to assert or even suggest there is no evidence that a reduction in damages would produce no reduction in insurance costs.

In our view, your attributed remarks lower the credibility of a society which (at present) retains a regulatory function for practicing solicitors. Furthermore, we believe they do a disservice to the vast majority of solicitors, including many ISME members, who are not personal injuries practitioners.

We respectfully request that you immediately remove this press release from the Law Society's website, and that you ask the Irish Legal News to take down its report of same.

Yours sincerely,



Neil McDonnell  
Chief Executive