

PRESS RELEASE



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GILL PROPOSALS WOULD SPEED THE PROCESS OF CIVIL INJURY CLAIMS, SAYS MDDUS

Recommendations contained in the Gill Review of the Scottish courts system would help speed up the processing of clinical negligence claims north of the border, says the defence organisation MDDUS (Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland).

In 2007 Lord Gill was appointed by the Scottish Government to review the provision of civil justice by the courts in Scotland – including their structure, jurisdiction, procedures and working methods.

His recent report makes over 200 recommendations which – if adopted – would bring about the most significant changes to civil justice in Scotland for more than a century.

In particular MDDUS welcomes the proposal that cases of a value up to £150,000 should be litigated in the sheriff court.

David Holmes, who heads the Scottish legal division within the UK-wide MDDUS says: "This would result in preventing claims worth less than £150,000 from being raised in the Court of Session.

"It is forecast that this proposal would slash the number of actions raised in the Court of Session by 64%."

MDDUS also welcomes the recommendation that Edinburgh Sheriff Court should become a specialist personal injury court with jurisdiction across Scotland.

Holmes explains: "The Scottish civil justice system has long been in need of reform, and the measures proposed would do much to improve the expeditious disposal of cases, with consequent cost savings for litigants ."

MDDUS is keen that the recommendations are eventually approved by the Scottish Government and make it to the statute books.

Gordon Dickson, chief executive of MDDUS, adds: "We are a major player in clinical negligence claims in Scotland. Anything that speeds up the process is to be welcomed. Having these claims dealt with more quickly is beneficial to both patients and our members."

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For further information contact Colin Calder on 0141 616 2677 or 07850 510881.

Note to editors

MDDUS is a medical defence organisation providing access to professional indemnity and expert medicolegal advice for doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals throughout the UK. For further information on MDDUS go to www.mddus.com.