

Transport Committee

House of Commons 7 Millbank London SW1P 3JA

Tel 020 7219 6263 Fax 020 7219 0909 Email transcom@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk/transcom

From Mrs Louise Ellman MP, Chair

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP
Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

12 February 2014

I am writing to follow up an issue raised in the written evidence we have received on your proposals to reduce the number and cost of whiplash claims.

This concerns the relationships between insurers, solicitors and medical reporting agencies. For example, Keoghs have said:

We would like to understand how the Government will deliver truly independent and accredited medical evidence. The Legal Services Act allows ABS structures whilst LASPO bans referral fees. The Government now wishes to dismantle relationships between law firms and their owned medical agencies. We see competing legislation / strategy here and would like more detail on how Government plan to square this particular circle.

We also see a potential problem in this area, if Alternative Business Structures could encompass insurers, lawyers and medical reporting agencies, potentially subverting your attempt to make medical reports on whiplash injuries more rigorous. Could you provide us with your view on this issue?

We would be grateful if you could reply by Friday 14 March.

Louise Ellman MP
Chair of the Committee
020 7219 1252