



05/08

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**DVD Guide to Criminal Injuries
Compensation Appeal hearings launched**

A new pilot DVD has been launched to ensure people are fully informed about what to expect at a Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeal Panels (CICAP) hearing.

The DVD sets out step-by-step what to expect at a hearing and how appellants and witnesses can best prepare. The DVD will be sent out with the CICAP guidance booklet to all appellants granted an oral hearing. Copies of the DVD will also be sent to Victim Support offices and other key stakeholders. It will also be available to view on CICAP's website: www.cicap.gov.uk.

CICAP hears appeals against decisions made by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority from whom it is separate and independent. Last year, it dealt with 2,300 appeals at 14 venues in the UK and made awards varying from £1,000 to the statutory maximum of £500,000 in the most serious cases.

Roger Goodier, CICAP Chairman said:

“Many victims of violent crimes have had a terrifying experience. Most of them have never previously had any experience of a tribunal and do not know what to expect. I want them to feel comfortable and able to prepare for an oral hearing without unnecessary fear or alarm.

“This DVD helps explain the process of an oral hearing and may well encourage genuine victims to come forward and feel unthreatened by the idea of attending a hearing”.

CICAP is administered by the Tribunals Service. From November most tribunals under the Tribunals’ jurisdiction, including CICAP, will transfer to the new tribunal structure, forming part of the First Tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal. This is the biggest change to the tribunals system in 50 years. It will improve service delivery and bring together the considerable expertise that exists in each tribunal jurisdiction. Members of CICAP will be transferred into the new structure to continue their work in the same way as at present ensuring there is no watering down of the skills in those hearing CICAP appeals.

Jeanne Spinks, Tribunals Service Acting Chief Executive said:

" This DVD aims to demystify the tribunal process. We recognise that going to a hearing can be a daunting experience and we want people facing a tribunal appearance to feel that they understand the process well in advance of their hearing.

“The move to a two-tier tribunal system will enable us to create a modern and efficient tribunal system responsive to the needs of all its users”

CICAP has also updated its Practice Directions to clarify its guidance and help ensure speedier justice. They can be found on CICAP’s website:

www.cicap.gov.uk.

Notes to editors

1. For further information on CICAP visit and to view the DVD online:
<http://www.cicap.gov.uk>
2. For further information on the two-tier Tribunal system visit:
<http://www.tribunals.gov.uk/latestnews.htm>

3. To request a hard copy of the CICAP DVD contact Jumoke Amure at enquiries-cicap@tribunals.gsi.gov.uk or 0207 549 4664.
4. The Tribunals Service, an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice, will continue to provide an integrated administration of the new two-tier tribunal system. The purpose of the Tribunals Service is to:
 - provide a responsive and efficient tribunals administration;
 - contribute to the improvement of the quality of decision-making across government;
 - reform the tribunals justice system for the benefit of its customers and the wider public; and
 - promote and protect the independence of the judiciary.
5. For further information contact Paula Ogun in the Tribunals Service Press Office on 020 3334 6510.