

trustmediation

~ not-for-profit dispute resolution ~

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Former Lord Justice set to back PI mediation

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A former Appeal Court judge has announced plans to encourage an increase in mediation for personal injury claims.

Former Lord Justice, Sir Henry Brooke, who was vice-president of the Court of Appeal, has launched the non-profit organisation dubbed Trust Mediation, which will provide mediators and personal injury specialists to resolve claims. Currently, six mediators have joined the organisation, including Sir Henry.

Sir Henry told Post: *"Civil mediation is on the rise in England. However, one sector where it is not really used that much is in personal injury cases. We are a devoted personal injury mediation group, bringing together all sides of the personal injury profession."*

The idea for Trust Mediation came at the end of July, and was kick-started last week after a meeting with insurers and lawyers, according to Sir Henry. Trust Mediation will run on a 15-month pilot basis with a review every three months. *"We will be up and running before the end of the year,"* he said.

The organisation will be self-financing, with a fixed-fee for each mediation and £1000 for the mediator.

Members of Trust Mediation will continue to work with other organisations such as the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution.

Sir Henry said: *"Mediation is the kind of conflict resolution clients like to use, especially on the claimant side. There is still some resistance on the insurance side, but it's mainly resistance to change."*

Last May, the government said it wanted to increase the use of mediation in personal injury claims at the request of the insurance industry. Currently 0.7% of personal injury cases use mediation (Post, 3 May 2007, p2).

Source: **Post Magazine**

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