



Road Traffic Accidents

Your right to claim compensation

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Can I claim compensation?

The Paul Rooney Partnership is a leading law firm with a national reputation in the field of Personal Injury.

Over the past three decades we have helped tens of thousands of accident victims who suffered injury through no fault of their own and recovered many millions of pounds on their behalf, helping them get back on their feet.

You may be surprised to learn that most people who suffer injury which is someone else's fault still do not claim.

Fault

The word 'accident' is something of a misnomer. Most road traffic accidents are in fact someone's fault.

Accidents can be caused by a number of factors including:

- Speed
- Tiredness and lack of concentration
- Lack of care
- Failure to react to dangerous situations
- Reckless or dangerous driving
- Alcohol
- Vehicle defects (eg, lights, brakes, tyres)
- Road defects or road conditions (e.g. ice, pot-holes)
- Unsecured loads
- Animals straying onto the road

No matter how minor your injury may seem you may be able to claim compensation if the accident is wholly or partly the fault of someone else. This may be the other driver but fault may also be established against the Highway Authority in respect of defects in the road, it's layout or even for their failure to salt or grit the road in adverse weather conditions.

If you have any doubts at all about who was to blame for the accident, seek legal advice.

What will it cost me?

If we believe that your claim has good prospects of success and you have no other means of paying for the case then we can act for you under a Conditional Fee Agreement (No Win No Fee).

How much can I expect to receive?

General Damages

These are the damages which will be awarded for the injuries which result from your accident. A medical report will be needed to describe the injuries you sustained and any continuing effects. The amount of compensation you receive will then be determined by reference to what has been awarded in previous similar cases.

Some typical examples:

Whiplash injury with full recovery after 3 months	£1000–£1250
Whiplash injury with full recovery after 6 months	£1500–£1650
Whiplash injury with full recovery after 12 months	£2000–£2250
Fractured collarbone	£2500
Uncomplicated Colles' fracture of wrist	£3750
Simple fracture of femur	£7000

Special Damages

These are the damages which compensate you for your past and future financial loss caused as a direct result of the accident and would typically include loss of earnings, medical expenses and travel expenses. If your injuries mean that you have received help and support from family and/or friends or you have had to alter your accommodation or even move house, you may be able to recover extra compensation.

Wherever possible you should retain documentation to prove your losses e.g. receipts etc.

What do I do next?

You need expert advice to establish whether the other driver has been negligent.

We have a large department dedicated to assisting the victims of road traffic accidents. We are committed members of the Motor Accident Solicitors Society. All MASS member firms have proved their expertise in road accident claims and have committed themselves to provide an efficient service set down by MASS. The service levels are detailed in the MASS Charter.

We are also members of the Law Society Personal Injury Panel which means we are experts in handling personal injury claims.

What will we do?

We will thoroughly investigate your claim and amongst other matters:

- We will ask you to fully describe what happened.
- We will arrange to take statements from any witnesses to the accident.
- We will immediately send a letter of claim to the driver responsible for the accident.
- We will arrange when necessary for an independent engineer to inspect your vehicle.
- We will arrange for a medical report to be prepared detailing your injuries.
- If you are unable to come to our office because of your injuries we will gladly come to your home or hospital.

We will ensure you receive maximum compensation in the shortest possible time.

Will my case go to court?

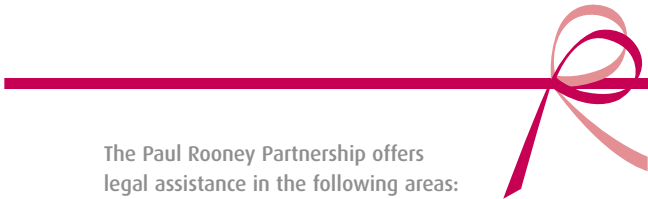
After your claim has been investigated and assessed, a formal letter containing full details of your case will be sent to the organisation or person responsible for your accident and their insurance company will then get involved.

The insurance company then has a period of three months to investigate the claim and confirm whether or not they accept responsibility for your accident.

If agreement cannot be reached with the insurance company over who is to blame and how much the claim is worth then court proceedings may be started. Your solicitor will give you advice on what this involves. Most cases are settled before or after court proceedings are started and very few go to a trial.

TIME LIMITS – Be Careful

From the date of your accident you have three years in which to commence court proceedings against the person or organisation responsible for your accident unless you were under 18 at the time of your accident in which case you have until your 21st birthday.



The Paul Rooney Partnership offers legal assistance in the following areas:

- Road Traffic Accidents
- Personal Injury
- Employment Law
- Criminal Injuries
- Conveyancing

Call 0151 227 2851 for details