



Motor insurers in the firing line after Channel 4 'exposé'

MOTOR INSURANCE REPAIRS and the cost of personal injury claims are likely to dominate the agenda of the group between now and Easter.

The recent Channel 4 *Dispatches* programme put the motor insurance industry under the spotlight with accusations that some insurers are profiting from their customers' collisions and compromising safety by cutting costs. This was particularly timely – and potentially damaging to the insurance industry – as it coincided with the Competition Commission deadline for submissions on the rising cost of motor insurance.

The issues raised in the programme will be hammered out at the group's meeting on 29 January. Members will hear first hand from Andrew Moody, managing director of Retail Motor Law, who provided the initial research for the *Dispatches* investigation. Steve Maddock, managing director, claims, Direct Line Group, will be putting the motor insurers' perspective and Frank Harvey, director of the National Association of Bodyshops, will represent the repairers.

Other meetings will examine the cost



Crunch: insurers accused on repair costs of personal injury claims, the most important factor in the upward pressure on premiums for motorists, employers and businesses needing public liability cover.

The complex calculations behind the discount rate are up for discussion and have the potential to drive up personal injury costs very quickly. The group will hear about the implications of some of the rumoured changes. It will also explore what firms can do to reduce the impact of premium increases driven by the jump in personal injury claims costs.

Top MEP to meet Westminster MPs over implications of Solvency II delays

AMID REPORTS THAT over two thirds of insurers have scaled back their implementation programmes, with many not ready to submit their first Solvency II quarterly return by 2014, the group will discuss the latest implementation delay and the potential impact it is having on the business plans and balance sheets of UK insurers.

Leading this discussion will be Peter Skinner, the British MEP who has been at the heart of the debate in the European Parliament in his role as rapporteur for the Parliamentary committee responsible for agreeing the Solvency II rules.



Solvency II delay: have insurers relaxed?

He will be joined by experts from Standard Life and other insurers.

The meeting takes place on Tuesday 26 March at 4.30pm in Committee Room 20.

Jonathan Evans will stand down in 2015

THE CHAIRMAN OF the All Party Group, Jonathan Evans, has announced that he will be standing down at the next General Election.

In a statement to his constituency party in Cardiff North just after Christmas, Mr Evans explained his reasons for standing down: "It is now 40 years since I was first selected at the age of 22 as a Conservative parliamentary candidate against the late Michael Foot. Twenty one years ago I was first elected to the House of Commons and I have altogether fought nine parliamentary election campaigns at Westminster and European elections since 1974.

"By the time of the next election in 2015 I will have served for two decades in the House of Commons and in the European Parliament in Brussels".

Mr Evans took over as chair of the group immediately after the 2010 election, succeeding long-time chair John Greenway who retired from the House of Commons at that election. He is expected to remain in the chair up to the election.

Chairman: Jonathan Evans MP

Deputy Chairmen: Andy Love MP, Lord Hunt of Wirral, Lord Newby

Hon Secs: Edward Leigh MP, Heather Wheeler MP

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