

The government is trying to take away your right to free or affordable legal representation if you're injured while cycling on the roads.



If you are injured on your bike, your lawyer's legal fees to fight for you to get back any wages you have lost and damages for your injuries, **are paid by the person who caused the injury**. The government wants to increase the small claims limit and leave you to fight your claim on your own, in your own time.

The changes are hidden in a consultation about 'whiplash' which will mean you won't have access to legal support if you're injured on your bike through no fault of your own. In fact, the changes would restrict access to justice for nearly 1 million people every year, including anyone injured at work.

The government also admits that their one-sided proposals will:

- Cost the taxpayer **£135m** every year
- Cost the NHS **£9m-13m** every year
- Gift **£200m** in extra profit to car insurers every year.



#FeedingFatCats

Antony Keegan, a 56-year-old security guard, was cycling home from work when a car turned right into a driveway, cutting across his path.

The impact threw him onto the car roof. He was taken to hospital and found to have a soft tissue injury to his chest and a laceration on his chin, which needed 80 stitches.

Antony had two weeks off work after the accident but returned before his injuries had healed because he couldn't afford further time off. He was awarded £4,000 in compensation.

If the government had it's way, he would have either had to fight his claim on his own or paid for someone to fight on his behalf.

He says: "there is no way I could have taken on the insurers of the driver on my own."

In 2014, more than 21,000 cyclists were injured in road traffic accidents, of which 3,514 resulted in serious injury or fatality.

Cyclists have nothing to do with whiplash claims and yet they will be caught up – as will all injured people including those injured at work - in these changes if they go through.

How can you stop the proposals going through?

- Visit the website **www.feedingfatcats.co.uk**
- **Write to your MP** opposing the changes to the small claims limit (There is a template letter on the website)
- **Sign the petition** www.bit.ly/smallclaimspetition