

# Injuries board hopes to pay out €100m compensation per year

**MORE than €100million in compensation was paid to accident victims over the last three years, the Personal Injuries Assessment Board (PIAB) has revealed.**

**Furthermore, the board said last night that it expects to deliver personal injury awards in excess of €100million annually from next year.**

**PIAB chief executive Patricia Byron said: 'We have delivered awards three times faster and at the same level of compensation as the courts system, thereby reducing stress and trauma for accident victims.'**

**All personal injury claims must be referred to PIAB before proceedings can be issued.**

**Following a review of a victim's case, the board will change how medical reports linked to claims are paid for.**

**At the moment, all claimants to the PIAB get an allowance of €150 for medical reports linked to their injuries. But the PIAB is now going to review each report on its merits to determine the appropriate allowance.**

**The board, set up by the Government to tackle the rising cost of insurance, offers an independent assessment without the need for 'the majority of litigation costs such as solicitors, barristers and expert fees' normally associated with such claims.**

**PIAB estimates legal fees add more than 46 per cent to the average cost of a claim.**

**These significant costs had contributed to the high cost of insurance in Ireland for both consumers and the business community.**

**The PIAB is funded with fees payable by Respondents (those who pay the compensation).**

**These fees are significantly less than litigation costs.**

**The PIAB became operational on June 1, 2004 in respect of claims made by employees against their employers.**