

# Women make up majority of €65m awards for accidents

MORE than €65million was paid out for accidents in public places between 2007 and 2008, with women accounting for 70 per cent of awards.

This is a direct reversal of the results for workplace accidents, where females account for just 30 per cent of compensation, according to the State body that decides awards to keep them out of court, InjuriesBoard.ie.

In the two years to December 2008, an average of €22,865 was paid out to 2,860 people in public liability (PL) awards.

Almost a quarter of accidents occurred in shops, while 19 per cent took place in pubs, nightclubs or restaurants, with slipping, tripping and falling accounting for 67 per cent of injuries.

Other causes included being struck by objects (11 per cent) and being injured by machinery (five per cent).

Burns accounted for two per cent, while one per cent of claimants suffered from food poisoning.

More than a quarter of PL awards were made against Local Authorities and a further six per cent involved transport and utility services.

The highest percentage of awards went to Dublin at 37 per cent, followed by Munster at 31 per cent. The rest of Leinster had 22 per cent of awards, while the least accident-prone people, with ten per cent of claims, live in Connaught and Ulster.

'We believe that improved accident prevention measures can deliver substantial additional savings as well as facilitating lower insurance for consumers and for business,' said Patricia Byron, chief executive of InjuriesBoard.ie.



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