

# INJURIESBOARD.IE PUBLISHES RESEARCH ON PUBLIC LIABILITY ["PL"] AWARDS

## Appendix 1: Supporting tables

**Table 1: Breakdown by Gender**

<b>Awards made</b>	<b>% female</b>	<b>% male</b>
Public Liability	72%	28%
Employer Liability	26%	74%

**Table 2: Breakdown by Location**

<b>Location of accident</b>	<b>% of total</b>
Retail/Shopping	25
Public Spaces/place under the aegis of Local Authorities	24
Hotel, Pub, Niteclub, Restaurant	19
State Agencies – e.g. transport and utility	8
Leisure facilities e.g. sports clubs, gyms, beauty salons, cinema	7
Education/Health facilities	3
Other	14

**Table 3: Breakdown by Cause**

<b>Cause of Accident</b>	<b>% of Awards</b>
Slips, trips and falls	65
Struck by falling or flying objects	9
Injury caused by machinery	4
Cut	3
Burns/Scalding	3
Assault	2
Animal	2
Poisoning/Food	1
Reaction	1
Other	10

**Table 4 Breakdown by injury**

<b>Type of Injury (<i>Many accident victims sustain at least two injuries</i>)</b>	<b>% of Awards where this injury occurs</b>
Sprain	42
Fracture	33
Bruising	32
Laceration	20
Superficial Injury	13
Psychological	5
Intracranial Injury (not fracture)	4
Dislocation	4
Burns	2
Crushing	2
Other	6

**Table 5: Breakdown by Age**

<b>Age at time of incident</b>	<b>% of Awards</b>	<b>% of population as per CSO 2006</b>	<b>% Awards Variance</b>
0-17	13	24	-46
18-24	8.6	11	-22
25-34	15.7	17	-6
35-44	15.2	15	+0.35
45-54	16.6	12	+37.5
55-64	16.6	10	+65
64+	14.3	11	+29

**Table 6: Breakdown by Region**

<b>Region</b>	<b>% of Awards 2009</b>	<b>% of population in province(CSO 2006)</b>	<b>% of Award Variance against Population</b>
Dublin	34	28	+22
Rest of Leinster	22	26	-16
Connaught - Ulster	10	18	-46
Munster	34	28	+21

**Table 7: Breakdown by Value**

<b>Award Value Category (€'s)</b>	<b>% of total</b>
<€20k	57
€20k-€38k	28
€38k-€100k	14.5
>€100k	0.5

## Appendix 2: 15 Case Studies by Location of Accident

### Local Authority:

**1. Edward**, a retired bank official **fell on a badly broken footpath** in the car park of his local shop. He lost consciousness at the scene and suffered a broken arm and also **abrasions and bruising to his face and head**. The fracture took quite a long time to heal and Edward required over 15 physiotherapy sessions. He still has some difficulty when raising his arm and finds lifting still quite painful.

InjuriesBoard.ie assessed Edward's claim and he was awarded **€35,000** for pain and suffering.

**2. Cathy**, a midwife in her early fifties **tripped and fell over a badly damaged kerb** in the town centre. The kerb had **not been repaired, was unmarked** and uneven. Cathy broke her shoulder in the fall and it was placed in a sling for over two months. Cathy required extensive physiotherapy and despite attending for over a year; she still finds overhead activities difficult and unfortunately will have **permanent restriction in her shoulder**.

Cathy's claim was assessed by the Board and she was awarded just over **€40,000** in General and Special Damages.

**3. Tess**, a child minder in her fifties **tripped and fell over a faulty and badly repaired part of the footpath**, which had remained **uneven** and irregular **after road works** had completed and **all work warning signs had been removed**. She suffered a very serious fracture to her right shoulder and was left with considerable stiffness and lack of movement in her shoulder.

As a result, Tess has been **unable to return to work and requires part-time home help with her daily chores**. Also, she had to undertake **major renovations to her home** to make it more suitable to her needs.

The Board assessed Tess's claim and she was awarded just over **€95,000** in General and Special Damages, over **€50,000 of this figure allowed for future medical treatment and necessary property renovations**.

### **Leisure Facilities – cinema, sports clubs, beauty salons etc.**

4. After attending the cinema with friends, **Barry** an office executive in his twenties, **slipped on spilled ice cream on the tiled area of the foyer**. It had **not been cleaned away by staff and there were no warning signs** to indicate that the area was a health and safety hazard.

He fell heavily on his outstretched hands and also on his hip.

Barry suffered ligament damage to his wrist and also a broken finger. He was **unable to work for six weeks and found driving and computer work difficult** in the period directly after his injury. The Board made an assessment of Barry's claim and awarded him **just under €30,000** in General and Special Damages, this figure also allows for Loss of Earnings by the claimant.

5. While attending a family function in her local sports club, **Anna** a 17 year-old student was caused to **slip and fall on a wet part of the dance floor**, spraining her ankle. She **also landed on some broken glass** that had **not been cleared away or cordoned off**. As some shards of glass had become embedded in the palm of her hand it **required surgery** and resulted in some scarring.

The Board assessed Anna's claim and she was **awarded just over €11,000** in General and Special Damages. This figure also allowed for medical and legal fees.

### **Retail/Shopping**

6. **Claire**, a drama teacher in her late twenties **tripped and fell over a badly damaged and un-repaired floor in a shopping centre**. There were **no warning signs** indicating the damaged area. She suffered a **twisting injury to her knee, causing significant cartilage damage**. Claire had enjoyed competitive dance as a hobby and after the incident was unable to return to this activity.

Claire's **recovery was slow** and her mobility was reduced for some time because of the fall.

The Board assessed her claim and she **received just over €27,000** in General and Special Damages.

**7. Eileen**, a secretary in her mid forties was **leaving her local supermarket** with her weekly shopping when she suddenly **slipped and fell on unmarked wet tiles** by the door. There were **no warning signs** erected. Eileen fell heavily and awkwardly on her side and **suffered a fracture to her left shoulder**. As a result of this fall she was **out of work for almost 3 months** and had to attend regular physiotherapy sessions.

The Board assessed her claim and she **received just under €21,000** in General and Special Damages.

**8.** While out shopping **Maura**, a housewife in her sixties **tripped and fell over a collapsed steel clothes rail** in a large retail outlet. The **rail had been badly constructed, unguarded and not marked as a health and safety risk**. She **suffered cuts to her hand, leg and foot** and the fall aggravated a previous tendon problem in Maura's foot, which subsequently **required surgery**. She experienced difficulty walking for any period of time and suffered frequent pain in her foot.

The Board assessed Maura's claim and she was **awarded just over €27,000** in General and Special Damages, this figure also allowed for Hospital Expenses.

**9. Fiona**, a chef, in her late thirties was in her local grocery store when she **walked into the unmarked glass entrance door**. There were **no safety markings on the door** and she did not see it. She suffered **lacerations around her eyes with bruising to her face and nose** and still suffers from intermittent nosebleeds.

InjuriesBoard.ie assessed Fiona's claim and **awarded her €4,200** in General and Special Damages, this amount also included a sum to replace her spectacles which were damaged in the incident.

### **Animal**

**10. Adam**, a 10 year-old schoolboy was visiting his friends' house one afternoon when he was **set upon by their dog in an unprovoked attack**. The **dog had been left unrestrained** for the duration of Adam's stay. He suffered **deep lacerations to his arm which required several stitches and resulted in scarring** to the area. These scars can cause Adam some discomfort and he is quite self conscious about them.

The Board assessed his claim and **awarded Adam just over €19,000** in General and Special Damages.

## **Hotel/Restaurant/Pub/Night Club**

**11. Natalie**, a travel agent in her mid twenties was enjoying a meal out **in a restaurant** with her family **when a waiter spilled boiling water on her legs**. She suffered **burns to her upper legs** and this has resulted in **permanent scarring**. These scars cause her much discomfort as the skin has become very sensitive and are intermittently painful.

Natalie's claim was assessed by InjuriesBoard.ie and she was **awarded just over €17,000** in General and Special Damages.

**12. Mark**, a block layer in his thirties was enjoying a night out with some friends **in a pub when he was struck on the head by a falling wall hanging** that had **not been properly secured** to the wall. He suffered **soft tissue injuries to his head and neck** which resulted in frequent dizzy spells and headaches.

He has since made a full recovery.

The Board assessed Mark's claim and he was **awarded just under €9,000** in General and Special Damages.

**13. Tom**, a driver in his early thirties was out **in a local bar** when he **caught his finger in a faulty door**. The **incident resulted in a partial amputation of the tip of Tom's finger** and an overall loss of sensation and grip. The Board assessed his claim and **he received just under €24,000** in compensation in General and Special Damages.

**14.** While out celebrating a work colleague's retirement dinner, **Joseph** an accountant in his late forties **slipped and fell on wet stairs in the restaurant**. There were no warnings signs erected and **the area had not been marked as a health and safety hazard**.

As a result of his fall, Joseph **fractured fingers on his dominant (right) hand** and also sprained his foot. He was **unable to return to work for over a month**.

InjuriesBoard.ie assessed Joseph's claim and **he was awarded over €29,000** in General and Special Damages.

**15. Saoirse**, a four year-old **schoolgirl was playing in the play-area of a restaurant**. She suffered **cuts and abrasions** and some bruising to her back when she was **struck by a protruding bolt on a play-slide**. The slide had not been constructed properly and was defective. Saoirse made a full recovery from her injuries.

The Board assessed her claim and she received **just over €4,000** in General and Special Damages.