

### Serious Injury News volume 1





Our team of serious injury solicitors provide specialist legal advice to help people who have been seriously injured to secure compensation. Read on to learn more about our services and some of the acquired brain injury survivors we have helped on the path to rehabilitation and recovery.

According to Headway, the brain injury association, there were 348,934 people admitted to hospital with an acquired brain injury (ABI) during 2013-14. That's an admission every 90 seconds. In this newsletter, we take a topical look at a range of news and issues relating to brain injury.

For all of the latest serious injury news from Thompsons Solicitors, follow us on Twitter:



@ThompsonsInjury



@ThompsonsLaw

#### Inside this issue:

Brain Injury in Sports

Adam's Story

Introducing... Jacqui

Our Partnerships

To visit our dedicated serious injury hub, scan this QR code:





## Adam's story

Adam McQuillan was just eight years old when he suffered a traumatic brain injury.

Adam was hit by a car at a pedestrian crossing in 2011. He was transferred to a specialist intensive care unit where his family were told to expect the worst.

He left hospital to continue his rehabilitation at home in March 2012 and, since then, has re-joined mainstream school where he is learning to write again and do basic sums.

Adam's mum, Anita said: "The serious injury team at Thompsons were a total godsend and helped us to plot a route through what was often a complicated and confusing system."

## New innovation could reduce risk of sports-based brain injuries

An American company has designed a skullcap which could help reduce head injuries.

The skull cap fits inside hats or helmets usually worn when playing sports, and provides protection to people at risk of acquiring a head injury.

Impact Reduction Apparel (IRA) has designed a liner for helmets and hats which should help to protect against head injuries commonly associated with skiing, snowboarding, baseball and skateboarding. It is aiming to do so by reducing the impact on the injury prone areas of a person's head. The skull cap is designed to fit the vast majority of hats and helmets and claims to offer the highest-grade impact reduction solutions for common impact areas.

Independent lab testing using the thinnest IRA skull cap showed a 65% reduction in peak impact force, the force with which two objects collide. A pitching machine firing baseballs at a pumpkin left the pumpkin showing visible cracks and damage without protection, but no damage when it was protected by the skull cap.

## Hats for Headway Day

Staff from Thompsons Solicitors joined in with Hats for Headway Day 2015, raising awareness and funds for people with acquired brain injuries. Thompsons staff donned some impressive hats in aid of the cause and highlighted the importance of support services for brain injury survivors.

Hats for Headway is an annual initiative organised by Headway, the brain injury association, as part of its Action for Brain Injury Week.





#### Introducing... Jacqui

Jacqui Owen is one of Thompsons' vital client support coordinators.

Jacqui is qualified nurse specialising in rehabilitation and her role is to work with clients and their families to understand the level of financial assistance they need to help with ongoing care, rehabilitation and future support.



Client Support Coordinators help injured individuals and their family or carers navigate through the acute care systems and rehabilitation. Jacqui signposts clients to available services and sources of support, and is the main point of contact until a privately funded case manager is appointed.

As well as providing pre-case management support, Jacqui helps to provide information for the solicitor about the type of equipment or other healthcare requirements clients may need in the future.

Relatives and carers also refer to Jacqui as their single point of contact when they need answers to their questions and for advice on, options around treatment, equipment and care as the injured person begins their rehabilitation journey.

Thompsons' person-centred approach encourages thinking beyond what is merely practical and aims to reach every clients' best case scenario.

#### Our Partnerships

We are proud of our long term relationships with the UK's leading brain and head injury support organisations. We were jointly responsible with UKABIF and Optua for developing BrainNav, the national brain injury service directory and are members of the Headway Legal Panel; many of our solicitors also have local relationships with branches across the UK.

Useful sources of information:



BrainNav www.brainnav.info



Brake, the road safety charity 0845 603 8570 www.brake.org.uk



The Child Brain Injury Trust (CBIT) Helpline 0845 601 4939 www.ChildBrainInjuryTrust.org.uk



Headway - The Brain Injury Association Freephone 0808 800 2244 www.headway.org.uk



RoadPeace Helpline 0845 4500 355 www.roadpeace.org



UKABIF 0845 608 0788 www.ukabif.org.uk Thompsons Solicitors have dedicated teams of serious injury lawyers across the UK. To speak to your region's head of serious injury, please use the below email addresses:

North West: Imogen Wetton imogenwetton@thompsons.law.co.uk

North: Simon Wilson simonwilson@thompsons.law.co.uk

Midlands: Peter Mulhern petermulhern@thompsons.law.co.uk

South Wales: Louise Westlake louisewestlake@thompsons.law.co.uk

South West: Lisa Gunner lisagunner@thompsons.law.co.uk

#### London and South East: Melanie Williams

melaniewilliams@thompsons.law.co.uk

We have developed a series of publications which contain more information about Thompsons' serious injury expertise and details of our other services. These can be found on our website or requested using the tear off sheet below:

- Brain Injury
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Amputation
- Clinical Negligence
- Road Traffic Accidents
- Accidents at Work

## Contact us:

www.seriousinjurysupport.co.uk 0800 0 224 224

Facebook: Thompsons Solicitors
Twitter: @ThompsonsInjury



To hear how we have helped clients with serious injuries in their own words, take a look at our videos online: www.youtube.com/user/ThompsonsLaw

# Get in touch

If you or someone you know has suffered from a serious injury, please complete this form to receive a call back from an expert solicitor, or call us on 0800 0 224 224.

\	lar	n	e:	

Address:

Telephone number:

Mobile number:

Email address:



TH15-14