

Personal Injuries Assessment Board (PIAB) – Claim volumes fall in 2017

Friday 20 April, 2018 — There was a decrease of **2.8%** last year in the overall number of personal injury claims received by the Personal Injuries Assessment Board (PIAB), compared with 2016, figures published today show. These figures do not reflect the totality of personal injury claims made in Ireland as they do not include cases settled directly between parties without the claimant ever making a claim to PIAB. It is expected that the overall volume of claims made will become available when the National Claims Information Database is put in place.

33,114 personal injury claims were submitted to PIAB in 2017, compared to 34,056 claims made in 2016.

- The number of **motor** claims made to PIAB decreased by **5.1%** compared with the previous year
- The number of **public liability** claims decreased by **3.5%**
- The number of **employer liability** claims increased by **7.5%**

2017 was a year in which the PIAB model continued to deliver major benefits, by providing a low-cost, quick and fair option to deliver personal injury compensation in undisputed cases.

The statistics show:

- *The average time to assess a personal injury claim by PIAB was **7.3 months**.*
- *PIAB processing costs were **6.2% of the value of awards** – a fraction of the costs had the claims it handled required litigation.*

PIAB made 12,663 awards in 2017, compared to 12,966 awards in 2016. The total value of awards made in 2017 was €315.04m.

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In 2017, 51% (6,428) of awards were of values up to €20,000. Meanwhile 33% (4,519) of awards related to values of between €20,000 and €38,000 and 13% (1,611) of awards were for values between €38,000 and €100,000. Less than 1% of awards (105) were for sums over €100,000. The average award value increased slightly from €24,305 in 2016 to €24,879 in 2017, reflecting the nature and severity of the cases assessed during the year.

The highest award in 2017 was €605,095.

The proportional breakdown of awards remained relatively steady year on year. Motor liability awards accounted for 72% of awards in 2017 (2016: 74%). Employer liability (workplace accidents) as a proportion of awards rose slightly to 10% of awards (2016: 9%) while public liability (accidents in public places) increased slightly as a proportion of awards to 18% of awards (17%: 2016).

The counties in Ireland with the highest number of awards were Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway and the counties with the lowest number of awards were Leitrim, Roscommon, Monaghan, and Carlow.

The figures published today by PIAB are the most detailed ones dealing with personal injuries publicly available in Ireland.

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www.piab.ie