Sue Brown

Title: **Chair**

Association: **Motor Accident Solicitors Society (MASS)**

Enabling Co-Operation in the Motor Sector

The relationship between claimant and defendant representatives has always been a complicated one. Often combative, not least on behalf of their respective clients, the relationship may sometimes feel condemned to endless conflict.

The reality, however, is somewhat different. On the ground, many claimant and defendant lawyers work productively together to get the best and fairest outcome for those that they represent.

This is also true at a policy level. Historically, much has been achieved through co-operation in determining the regulatory framework that will operate most efficiently and effectively. Of course, the path of dialogue and collaboration is rarely an easy one. History has shown that there have been initiatives that would not have happened without an honest dialogue and discussion to produce some practical solutions to the problems that we all face.

It is a great shame that, so far, the claimant sector has been excluded from participating in the Department for Transport and HM Treasury's Motor Insurance Taskforce when considering the issues around the high costs of car insurance and its impact upon consumers. Our perspectives may be different, and we would certainly disagree on some matters, but the claimant sector could play a valuable role in finding some solutions to the problem of high motor insurance premiums; issues such as uninsured driving, claims costs and fraud.

The Taskforce is a welcome initiative brought together to consider an important issue that impacts millions of motorists. However, it would greatly benefit from having the active participation of all those involved in the sector, giving its work credibility and ensuring buy-in from all sides of the claims sector. Injured motor accident victims are, after all, premium payers too.

MOTOR ACCIDENT SOLICITORS SOCIETY