



## Craig Whittaker MP

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### **Response to Stop Sickness Claims – July 2017**

Thank you for contacting me about the Association of British Travel Agents' (ABTA) stop sickness scams campaign.

The Government is also concerned about the apparent increase in holiday sickness claims. Where payments are made based on fraudulent statements there are wider implications for tour operators and the holiday industry more generally and I am pleased the Government is committed to stamping out this behaviour as swiftly as possible.

I welcome the Prime Minister's plans to cap the total amount faced by companies defending fraudulent claims. This will help remove the pressure on businesses to pay a settlement fee even in cases where little evidence is presented. To put this into action, Ministers have asked the Civil Procedure Rule Committee, which is responsible for setting rules on legal costs, to urgently look the costs of holiday claims.

The Ministry of Justice is also already liaising with ABTA about this issue with the aim of both understanding the underlying drivers of fraudulent behaviour and identifying the most effective response to it. To deal with current abuses, and bring individuals to justice, the Solicitors Regulation Authority is working with industry representatives and other regulators. Tackling any form of fraudulent claim in our courts is a key Government priority.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP