

DAC Beachcroft Partner Elected New President Of FOIL

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DAC Beachcroft partner Duncan Rutter has become the 20th President of the Forum of Insurance Lawyers (FOIL), with a mission during his year of office of working to maintain access to justice while at the same time improving the claims process, removing excessive costs from the system and tackling fraud.

Duncan heads up DAC Beachcroft's Catastrophic Injury Group and specialises in advising on brain and spinal injury cases. His breadth of experience includes advising insurers in RTA, EL and PL claims, clinical negligence, disease and complex, high value claims.

In his Presidential year, Duncan aims to work with stakeholders to improve the claims process and tackle fraud. He believes innovations such as the Online Dispute Resolution service, for example, can improve and streamline the claims process.

With ongoing changes in professional development, Duncan intends to use his year in office to advance FOIL's education and training agenda for members, with the introduction of a statement of competence and specialist statements of legal knowledge designed to enhance the skills of insurance lawyers.

FOIL is at the forefront of legal organisations strongly opposing Ministry of Justice proposals for a second hike in court fees.

Commenting on his appointment, Duncan said:

"I intend to carry on the fight against further rises in court fees which my FOIL predecessor Nick Parsons has championed so effectively in the past year. These planned rises hit at the heart of access to justice and come at a time when court users are experiencing delays and poor service because of cost-saving cuts."

CEO of FOIL Laurence Besemer added:

"Duncan's varied background in the legal and insurance sectors will be very important in our next steps at FOIL. FOIL continues to pursue its strategy of training up the next generation of leading defendant insurance lawyers, as well as collaborating with members of the claimant community to achieve success in our common interests. Nick Parsons has been hugely effective in promoting these aims in his Presidential year and I'm certain Duncan can bring further success."

Duncan spoke to Post Magazine about his year ahead as President of FOIL. [Click here](#) to access the article. A subscription is required.