

Personal Injuries Assessment Board

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Chief Executive

*Joint Oireachtas Committee on Finance, Public
Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach*

14 September 2016



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Introduction...

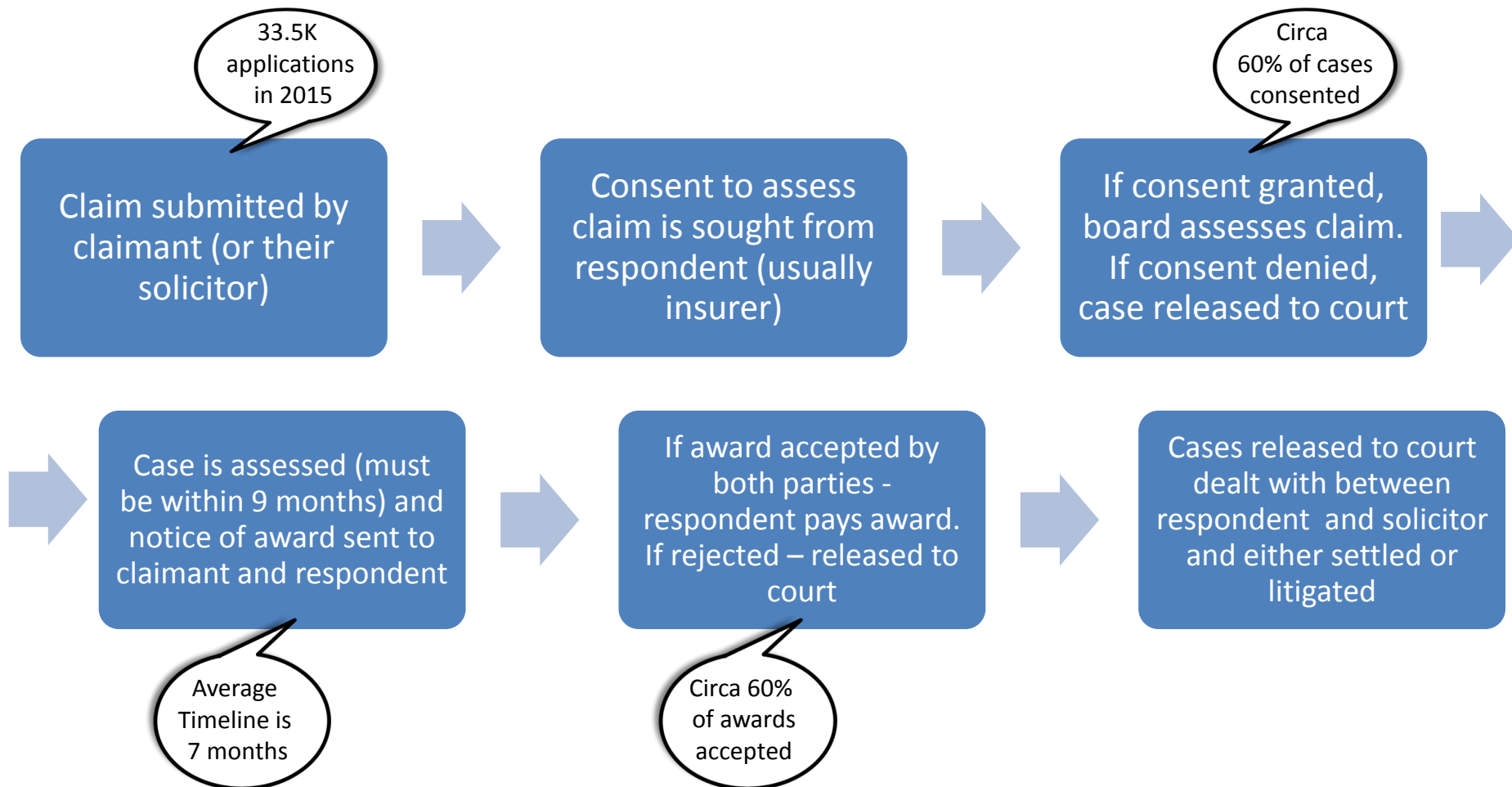
Who we are...

Independent, self-funded state organisation.
Established to provide low cost alternative
model for personal injuries claims

What we do - our role

- We **assess** personal injury claims - 100,000 claims assessed
- We **remove** cases from unnecessary litigation – 70% of cases removed to save costs and time
- We offer a **low cost alternative** to litigation – our processing costs at lowest levels
- We make **compensation payments** to injured parties in line with the Book of Quantum - average award levels have remained consistent over past 5-6 years
- We **publish statistics** regularly to maintain transparency
- We preserve the **right of access to court** if required – constitutional rights not impinged

High level overview of process



Trends in motor insurance premiums

- Very sharp rises in motor premiums reported
- Motorists/businesses under financial pressure
- Factors cited include past underpricing, under-reserving, claims costs/numbers, fraud, Setanta, levies, investment returns & changes in the legal environment
- ***To what extent are claims the problem??***
 - Premiums up 70% in 3 years
 - PIAB figures show personal injury motor claims volumes and average value of awards are static this year
 - Absence of overall data in Ireland on overall claims costs, settlement costs and numbers of claims outside PIAB

3 channels for claims resolution

	1	2	3
Channel	Direct settlements	PIAB	Courts
Data Availability	No data available on overall claim volumes, average awards, timelines or processing costs	Published data on numbers of claims, average awards, timelines and processing costs	Some published data on number of awards & cost. No data on average awards, processing costs, timelines
Volumes	Volume trends not known	Claims volumes currently stable	Data available, more granular information would be useful
Award Levels	Award level trends not known	Awards relatively static in recent years	Aggregate data available, more detail would be useful
Timeline	Shorter timeframe but details not known	Average 7 months to assess assessment	Longer timeframe - more data needed from insurers
Costs	Unknown costs	Low cost – 6.5 per cent of awards	High cost

What we are doing about it

- Review of **Book of Quantum** - will make awards more predictable and consistent, benefiting all stakeholders
- Calling for **transparency** in relation to settlements
- Actively working with D/Finance on **Working Group** and sub-group
 - Other Potential Initiatives

Publication of Revised Book of Quantum

- **Does not recommend or set awards or assessment levels**
- Compiled by independent consultants – currently being finalised
- Provides **general guidelines** on amounts that may be awarded for personal injuries
- Deals with pain and suffering due to injuries
- Based on research of settlements and reflects current awards – data from **Insurers, State Claims Agency, PIAB** and the **Courts**
- Revised Book to be published shortly, based on 2013/14 figures
- Includes new injuries and more granular guidelines. Where amounts change that is because awards and settlements have changed

Thank you for listening