

## MoJ update

### It's official...

**...the date for commencement of the new RTA claims process has been put back to 30 April 2010.**

The date has been put back by 24 days is to allow further time to ensure systems are able to interface with the IT portal effectively. We understand the extension has been provided at the request of the IT Project Steering Group who were concerned about challenges faced by users in changing their internal case management systems to transmit data in the system to system method.

It is apparent that the systems integration issues would not be resolved by the beginning of April. Although the portal is being delivered on time, there will be insufficient time for rigorous testing by higher volume users to ensure the effective transfer of information which is integral to the new process.

There had been concerns about the timescale for the reform, but earlier this year, there was a reaffirmation of the Ministry of Justice's commitment to the original schedule. This will be the only delay allowable since the Statutory Instruments introducing the new process will be released shortly.

Chris Ball, Partner and leader of Weightmans' MoJ response team, said, "The countdown to change has been extended which will benefit organisations currently undergoing significant operational change to deal with the post-MoJ regime. We have been preparing ourselves and readying our clients for some time and this additional time will enable us to increase our capacity to extend services to new clients."

Bavita Rai, partner, commented, "This will allow thorough training of staff and rigorous testing of the systems in connection with the portal. There is no compulsion to use the portal, although for practical reasons, if the claimant community are going to be using it, then insurers will have to be able to interact with it."

