

Man wins £650,000 payout after horror bike smash

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By **Andy Woolfoot**

A CRICKLADE man who was nearly crippled after being knocked off his motorbike four years ago was been awarded £650,000 in compensation.

Antony Williams, 33, was riding his bike, on his way to work, along Common Hill, Cricklade when he was struck by an oncoming Vauxhall Astra on July 10, 2006.

Black Horse Contractors employee Wayne Giles had forced the Astra to swerve into Antony's path as he pulled his lorry out into the road. Giles was later prosecuted for driving without due care and attention.

IT consultant Antony, sustained multiple fractures to his pelvis with associated nerve damage, a fractured back, a fractured right wrist, multiple soft tissue injuries and minor brain injury.

He underwent multiple operations and is left with permanent disability. He will require further surgery in the future.

He said: "I'm permanently in pain and I'm on morphine pouches all the time. It never gets rid of the pain but means I can have some kind of a life.

"I'm not the kind of person to hold a grudge. I don't feel bitter – the point is to continue and make the most of what we have got."

Antony, who was born in Cricklade, lives with his wife Melanie and their two children.

He can only work two days a week and Melanie, who saw Antony lying in the road immediately after the accident, has had to have counselling.

This week specialist motorcycle accident law firm Bikelawyer, who represented Anthony, secured a compensation payout of £650,000, based on loss of earnings.

Antony told the Standard: "We are still in a bit of shock but at the end of the day it is not a life-changing amount of money for someone in my situation.

"We are looking to buy a property now as we have been renting and we will put a chunk away for the future.

Bikelawyer solicitor Andrew Campbell said: "The accident was a devastating and life-changing event for Antony and his family.

"Antony has shown real courage and determination in picking up the pieces of his life and getting on with it as best he can and I wish him all the best for the future."