

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Bus Driver Receives £225,000 in compensation:**

James Morton was a Bus Driver employed by Arriva. He worked from their Ashington Depot.

On 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 he was driving his bus loaded with passengers along the A1068 near Cramlington. A van which was travelling in the opposite direction failed to notice a car in front of it slowing down and veered right into the path of Mr Morton's bus.

Mr Morton managed to stop his bus and ensure his passengers were not hurt. However, he was trapped in the cab. He had to be cut out by the Fire Brigade and air lifted to hospital.

He suffered serious fractures of his left leg and had to undergo an emergency operation. He was very lucky not to have to have the leg amputated. However, he continues to have significant difficulties with mobility and he will never be able to return to bus driving again.

The van driver admitted responsibility for the accident and his Insurance Company have now agreed to a payment of compensation following a claim being made by Mr Morton's Solicitors Beecham Peacock.

Mr. Morton is a member of the Union, Unite and they were able to support his claim and ensure he had Solicitors to ensure he was fully compensated.

Mr Morton is delighted with the outcome of his case and very grateful to his Union and Beecham Peacock for all the support they have given him.

Kirsten Scott of Beecham Peacock comments that this was a terrible accident to Mr Morton but he has done incredibly well to get himself back on his feet although it is sad he will never be able to return to the job he loved.

Davey Hall UNITE Regional Secretary commented:

We are pleased that Mr Morton's claim has been finally settled so that he and his family have peace of mind. As a UNITE member he pursued a compensation claim with the Unions' full legal support with all costs being offset by the Union.

Beecham Peacock who pressed the claim on behalf of Mr Morton are one of the most professional in the region in the pursuance of accident claims and were able to strongly argue with the Insurers in providing for this settlement.