

Important News for Sufferers of Asbestos-Related Diseases

“ A very professional, knowledgeable and trustworthy solicitor. ”

Mesothelioma is now the 12th most common cancer killer in men and the cancer of most rapidly increasing incidence in women

Increased Upfront Payments for Mesothelioma Sufferers and their Dependents

From **April 1, 2010**:

- Payments made under the 2008 Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme to people who suffer from mesothelioma but were not exposed through their work are to be **increased** so that they are equal to the payments made to those exposed in employment under the Pneumconiosis etc (Workers' Compensation) Act (PWCA) scheme.
- Payments to **dependants** under the PWCA and the 2008 schemes are to be increased by up to £5000 so that their awards are closer to those paid to sufferers.
- Payments under the PWCA scheme are to be increased by 1.5%

Speeding up mesothelioma claims

The government recently announced the establishment of a working group of claimant solicitors, trade unions, insurers, the judiciary and civil servants to examine mesothelioma claims practices and procedures. The aim is to streamline the process and reduce the time taken to conclude cases.

Court Decisions of Interest to Mesothelioma Claimants

- A plumber who sometimes used asbestos scorch pads and asbestos string was said to have had “modest and infrequent” exposure. This was sufficient to establish the liability of his employer.
- An office worker who sometimes went into a factory where there was asbestos was successful in establishing the liability of his employer.
- A claimant suffering symptoms for 22 months was awarded £77,500 for pain and suffering **plus** all financial losses.
- A claimant suffering only 6 weeks of acute symptoms before death was awarded £47,500 for pain and suffering **plus** all financial losses.

