



Secretary: Joanne Gordon
Chair: Tony Whitston
Tel: 0161 6367555/07748189837

Appeal for Amendment to the Mesothelioma Bill [HL] Report Stage 7 January 2014

Appeal to support the Mesothelioma Bill ALL-PARTY amendment to improve payment to at least 80% of average compensation

Clause 4, page 3, line 5, at end insert 'but shall not be less than 80 per cent of the average civil compensation recovered by mesothelioma claimants'.

**Tracey Crouch MP
Stephen Phillips MP
Paul Goggins MP
Andrew Bingham MP
Dr Sarah Wollaston MP
John Leech MP
Stephen Barclay MP
Kate Green MP**

Dear Member of Parliament,

We urge you to support the ALL-PARTY amendment above to improve payments to mesothelioma sufferers to at least 80% of average compensation.

There is agreement across Parliament that mesothelioma sufferers should, ideally, receive 100% compensation, and there is a groundswell of opinion that an 80% payment is the very minimum and is manageable without the need for insurers to pass on costs.

The Government accept, without question, the insurers' claim that if the levy exceeds 3% of the gross premium they receive for employers' liability insurance, i.e. Gross Written Premium (GWP), they will pass the cost on to business.

Two days before Second Reading the Government increased legal costs by 250% - from £2,000 to £7,000. This drove up the levy so that a payment of 80% of average compensation now means that over four years the GWP just tips over the 3% threshold at 3.18%. But over ten years it is still well below the threshold at 2.61%

Until the last minute Parliamentarians had every expectation that a very modest increase in the payment from 75% to 80% was well within the arbitrary threshold set by the insurance industry.

We believe that the insurance industry can give some leeway. After all, they are to receive a gift of £17 m and a loan of £30 m, as well as limiting payments to mesothelioma sufferers only, who have to pay back 100% of benefits despite receiving much less than 100% in compensation.

We urge you to support the modest increase to 80% of average compensation