

Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 and 2008 Mesothelioma Scheme

April 2011

Background

Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979

The Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 provides lump sum payments to sufferers of certain dust related industrial diseases. The diseases included under the Act are;

- Pneumoconiosis (including asbestosis, silicosis and kaolinosis); diseases of the respiratory tract owing to the inhalation and retention of dust particles
- Diffuse mesothelioma; a cancer of the lining of the lungs or abdomen associated almost exclusively with asbestos
- Byssinosis; a reactive airways disease of cotton, flax and hemp workers
- Diffuse pleural thickening (benign thickening of the lining of the lungs) and primary carcinoma of the lung (lung cancer) if accompanied by asbestosis or diffuse pleural thickening

Further information on Pneumoconiosis Etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 is available on DirectGov at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/Disabledpeople/DG_186001

2008 Mesothelioma Scheme

Mesothelioma is a cancer of the lining of the lungs or abdomen, and is associated almost exclusively with asbestos; it is invariably fatal. The 2008 scheme makes lump sum payments to mesothelioma sufferers where there is not an occupational link to the disease. For example,

- those exposed to asbestos from a relative (e.g. from their overalls)
- environmentally (e.g. living near a factory using asbestos)
- the self-employed
- those who can't trace specific exposure to asbestos, but there is nothing to suggest that they were not exposed to asbestos in the UK.

Further information on Mesothelioma Payment is available on DirectGov at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/FinancialSupport/OtherBenefitsAndSupport/DG_171648

Publication

Demand has been growing for information on Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 and 2008 Mesothelioma Scheme since the Department consulted on proposals for supporting people who need to trace Employers' Liability Insurance, in the consultation document, Accessing Compensation, which was published in February 2010. Further information on the consultation, which closed on

5th May 2010, is available on the DWP website at:
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2010/accessing-compensation-elci.shtml> .

In response to this increased demand, the Department has made plans to place information in the public domain.

Information will be published on 18th May 2011 as official statistics alongside the established Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit Statistics which provides information on people who are disabled because of an industrial accident or prescribed industrial disease.

This update was announced in the DWP Statistical Summary on 16th March 2011 and will be released on a quarterly basis thereafter.

In line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics on release practices the Department has considered that it is in the public interest to release this information now and not delay until the quarterly publication on 18th May 2011.

The DWP Statistical Summary is published on the DWP website at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/stats_summary/stats_summary_mar2011.pdf

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit Statistics are published on the DWP website at: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=iidb> .

Methodology

The data presented here is consistent with internal management information which is sourced from 100% counts from Pneumoconiosis Workers Compensation System. The Pneumoconiosis Workers Compensation System records individual level data of payments made under the Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 and 2008 Mesothelioma Scheme.

This information has not previously been published.

Results

The following table shows the annual amount paid for Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 and 2008 Mesothelioma Scheme.

Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979

Time Period	Amount Paid
Year to March 2007	£25,946,000
April 2007 - December 2007	£19,480,000
January 2008 - December 2008	£30,922,000
January 2009 - December 2009	£35,013,000
January 2010 - December 2010	£37,611,000

2008 Mesothelioma Scheme

Time Period	Amount Paid
October 2008 - December 2008	£3,369,000
January 2009 - December 2009	£7,687,000
January 2010 - December 2010	£8,006,000

SOURCE:

DWP Information Directorate, 100% counts from Pneumoconiosis Workers Compensation System

NOTES:

1. Amounts paid are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds

Katie Dodd (katie.dodd@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)
Department for Work and Pensions

April 2011