

Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme (DMPS)

Oversight Committee

28 May 2015

14:00-16:00

Minutes

Attendees:

Baroness Rita Donaghy	Chair
Bridget Collier	Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
Doug Jewell	Asbestos Victims Support Group Forum
Hugh Robertson	Trades Union Congress

DWP:

Ros Sannachan	DMPS Senior Performance Manager (DWP)
Annette Loakes	DMPS Performance Manager (DWP)

Apologies:

Steve Bellingham	Royal Sun Alliance Insurers
Laurence Besemer	Forum of Insurance Lawyers

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members and DWP officials to the meeting.

2. Minutes and actions from the last meeting

The minutes of the February meeting of the committee were agreed and that there were no matters arising. The Chair noted that there had been a formal meeting of the committee whilst on their visit to Edinburgh – the Chair would provide a note of the meeting which would be circulated with these minutes.

AP1: Committee Chair to provide a note of the March meeting to DWP who would circulate with May minutes.

Update on action point 6 (dated 17/12/14), the committee reiterated their request about the possibility of updating the leaflet 'Help and advice for people with mesothelioma'. DWP indicated that they were still looking into the possibility of this. DWP will come back to the committee with progress. Action point (**AP: 6 (dated 17/12/14)**) to remain open.

Committee noted response to action point 1 (dated 12/02/15). Chair felt that this might be an issue they may wish to consider in more detail in 12 months' time once more cases had progressed through first tier tribunal.

3. Scheme MI

Committee members were pleased to see an increased number of website hits in the last few months. This indicated a good general awareness.

Members asked that a full A3 size version of the complete set of monthly management information be available at future meetings.

AP2: DWP to provide A3 size version of the complete set of MI at future committee meetings for all members.

4. Feedback on visit to GBI office

The committee were impressed with the staff and overall operation and delivery of the scheme by the contractors Gallagher Bassett International (GBI). During the visit, members made suggestions on improvements. GBI were able to respond on some of the points raised, however the committee acknowledged that GBI had not been asked to formally respond. The points raised were:

- a) For GBI to suggest other potential routes for seeking advice to sufferers who make a telephone call to the scheme administrators. Specifically in cases where it was clear they would not be entitled to help via the scheme or who were confused about were next to seek advice.
- b) To provide the sufferer with a checklist of 'things to remember' to send with the application form;
- c) To tailor letters sent to deceased sufferers to ensure the correspondence was appropriate and addressed properly.

On point a) DWP confirmed that the scheme administrators were not obliged to provide advice on signposting to other organisations. Nor were they asked to indicate to sufferers that there is/might be other help and support available to them.

DWP confirmed they would provide the committee with an update on points b) and c).

AP3: DWP to provide the committee with a response on the suggestion to provide the sufferer with a checklist of 'things to remember' to send with the application form and to tailor letters sent to deceased sufferers to ensure the correspondence was appropriate and addressed properly

5. Committee's annual report

The Chair had provided members with a draft copy of the committee's annual report which was discussed and agreed by members. The Chair agreed to send DWP secretariat a final copy of the report for publication and asked the secretariat to insert the correct from/to dates and a web link to previous minutes of meetings within the report.

The committee asked that they be provided with a hard copy of the report once published

AP4: DWP secretariat to insert the correct from/to dates and a web link to previous minutes of meetings within the report where the Chair indicates.

AP5: DWP to provide the committee with a hard copy of the committee's annual report once published.

6. Committee's next meeting

The committee discussed possible dates for the next meeting, members agreed to meet again on Thursday 15th October 2015. The Chair requested that future meetings commence at 1pm instead of 2pm.