

Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme Official Statistics

Data for 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2019

Annual

Published: 29th August 2019

Coverage: United Kingdom

Official

The Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme (DMPS) was launched throughout the UK on 6 April 2014. It provides payments to eligible sufferers of diffuse mesothelioma (or their eligible dependents) who were negligently exposed to asbestos during a period of employment, but who are unable to take legal action to seek financial redress through the civil courts. The DMPS is paid for via a levy on the insurance industry.

This is the seventh official statistics publication in this series. The sixth release contained statistics reporting on the DMPS, including applications received, success rates, and payments, from 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2018 inclusive. This release updates it with data from 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

Main stories

Applications received

April 2018- March 2019
370

Total (April 2014- March 2019)
1,870

Application success rate (excluding pending applications)

April 2018- March 2019
79%

Total (April 2014- March 2019)
72%

Total amount paid

April 2018- March 2019
£38.9m

Total (April 2014- March 2019)
£172.6m

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Comments? Feedback is welcome

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What you need to know

The DMPS was established under powers set out in the Mesothelioma Act 2014. It makes payments to people diagnosed with diffuse mesothelioma on or after 25 July 2012 who contracted the disease as a result of negligent exposure to asbestos at work in the United Kingdom, and who are unable to claim damages because the employer no longer exists and the employer's liability insurer cannot be traced. Payments can also be made to eligible dependants of those sufferers who died as a result of the disease before they could make an application to the Scheme.

The Scheme is funded by a levy on the insurance industry. For the purpose of meeting the full costs of the Scheme, regulations require active employers' liability insurers to pay an annual levy based on their relative market share. This levy encompasses the capital payments made to applicants, administration costs, and costs associated with collecting the levy. In the first year of the Scheme's operation (April 2014 to March 2015) the levy was £32m, in 2015/16 it was set at £23.2m, in 2016/17 it was set at £40.4m, in 2017/18 it was set at £33.5m and in 2018/19 it was set at £39.8m.

Official statistics relating to the Scheme are currently released annually and are sourced from data originally collected by the Scheme Administrator appointed to act on behalf of the DWP. To reflect any updates, where possible, the full historical statistical series will be refreshed with each release, and so previous figures may be updated (for example, to account for previously pending applications that have since been finalized).

The historical series has been updated to show whether pending decisions have become successful or unsuccessful since the previous publication. Due to changes in scheme administrator from 1 April 2018 we have been unable to update the historical series for the demographics and characteristics of applicants between April 2014 to March 2018. These figures remain broadly the same as they were at the end of March 2018 although include some additional cases received by the new administrator early.

Summary of additional available data

All of the information underpinning the charts and figures featured in this summary is included in accompanying excel tables.

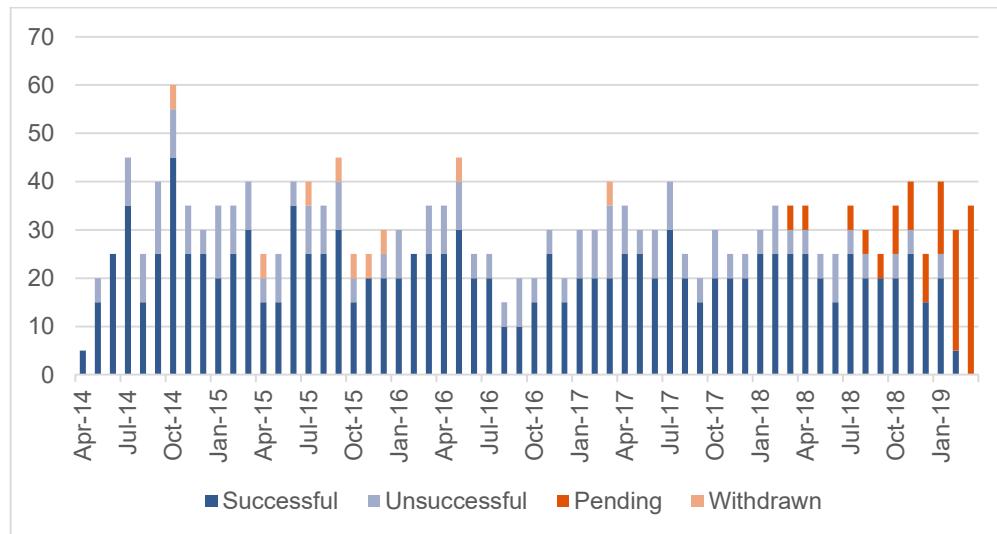
Notes

- The data contained herein covers the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2019. It is acknowledged that the scheme did not open to receive applications until 6 April 2014.
- To avoid disclosing information about individual applicants, all volumes have been rounded to the nearest 5, percentages to the nearest 1 percent, total payments to the nearest £0.1 million, and average payments to the nearest £1000. Consequently, there may be slight discrepancies in total figures due to rounding
- With a view to improving future releases, we welcome feedback on the material provided.

Applications

55 per cent of applications have been successful in 2018/19 (if pending applications are not excluded)

Applications received by the scheme may be recorded as successful, unsuccessful, withdrawn or have a decision pending.



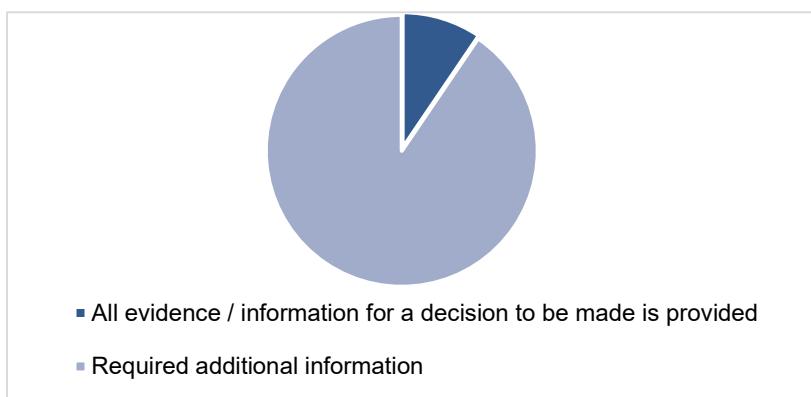
In the financial year 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, 370 applications have been received. This is approximately 1 per cent fewer than in 2017/18, 7 per cent more than in 2016/17, but 2 per cent fewer than in 2015/16 and 10 per cent fewer than in 2014/15.

In the financial year 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, 55 per cent of all applications have been successful, 13 per cent unsuccessful, 2 per cent withdrawn, and 31 per cent had pending decisions (as at April 2019).

The last four months (December, January, February and March) have been significantly impacted by pending applications. Over the next few months, pending applications will turn into successful or unsuccessful claims, which will be recorded under the month the application was received. Excluding those four months, about 67 per cent of all applications received from April 2018 to March 2019 have been successful which is consistent with 67 per cent across all months since April 2014.

Excluding pending applications altogether, 79 per cent of applications received in the last 12 months were successful. This figure is 72 per cent across all months since the scheme began.

More than 90 per cent of applications required additional information



The majority of applications required additional information, stopping the downward trend seen in previous years.

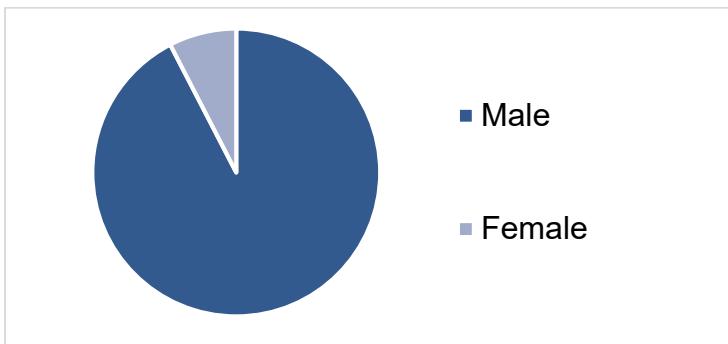
In the last 12 months, 91 per cent of applications required more information than was initially provided in order for a decision to be made.

Where an applicant believes they are entitled to claim, early completion of the application is encouraged. The Scheme Administrator acknowledges receipt and holds the claim until all the necessary evidence is provided by the applicant. Some evidence can be more difficult to obtain, for example, if the applicant is required to trace ex-employers/employers' liability insurers where a significant time lapse may have occurred.

See **Table 3** for full data.

Applicants

The majority of applicants have been male



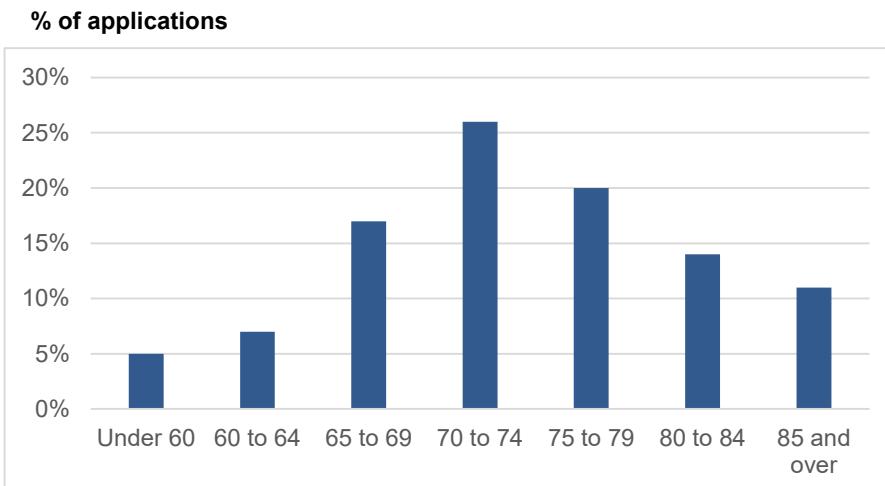
The vast majority (92 per cent) of applicants in the last 12 months have been male. The higher male figures reflect the professions where exposure to asbestos and therefore the risk of suffering from diffuse mesothelioma have been high – for example carpenters, plumbers, electricians, dockworkers, ship builders and metal workers in the 1960s and 70s.

Note: the diagram shows the proportion based on the year 2018/19.

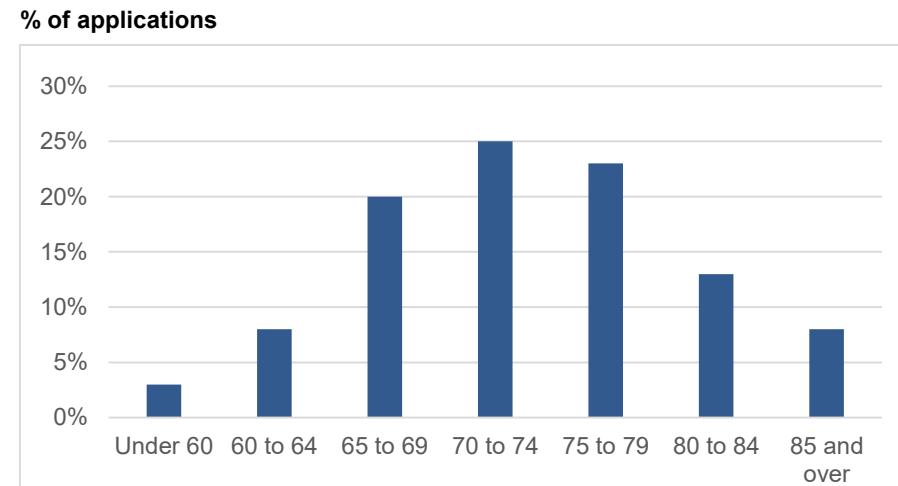
See **Table 5** for full data.

Applicant Age

Applicant's age at diagnosis 2018/19



Successful applicant's age at diagnosis



Applicants age at diagnosis are predominately in the over 65 age groups.

There are no age restrictions on applicants but the amount received depends on the age of the applicant at the point of diagnosis. In 2018/19, over two thirds of successful applicants (68 per cent) were aged between 65 and 79.

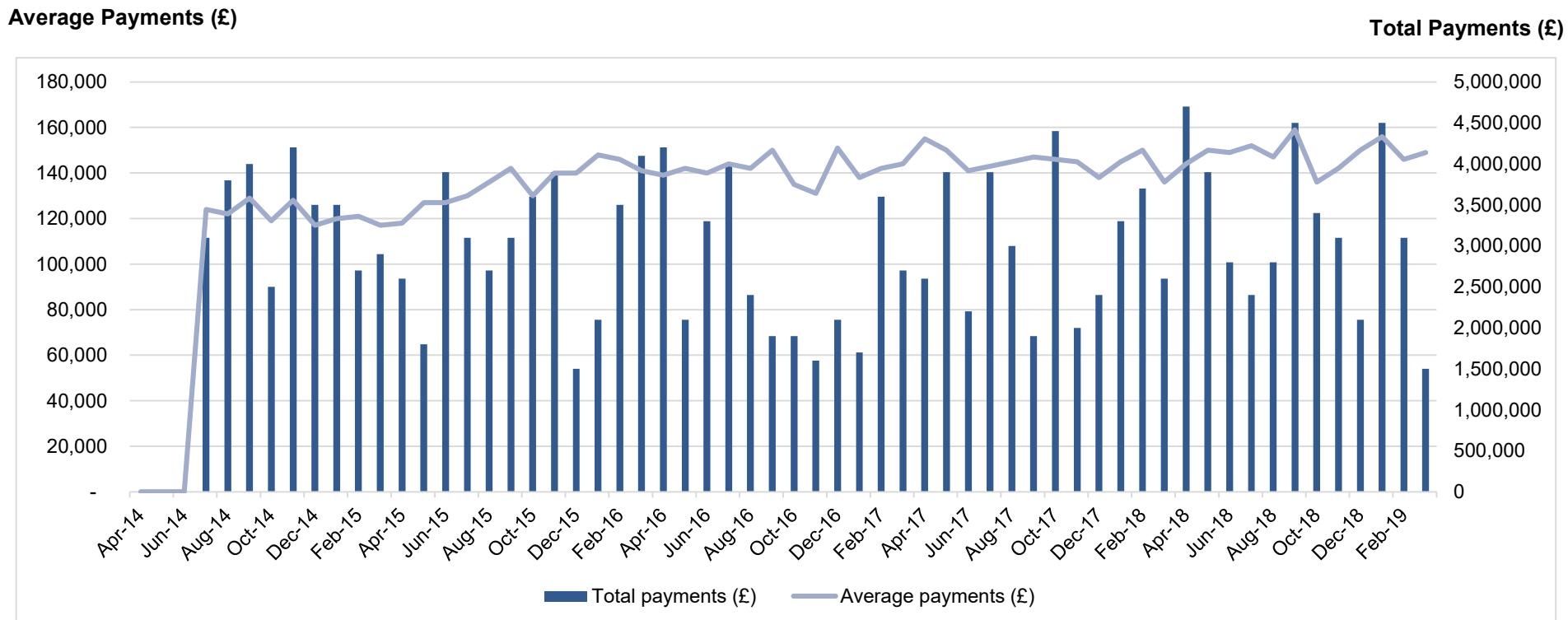
Diagnosis pre-6th April 2014

Previous versions of this publication have looked at the number of applicants diagnosed pre-6th April 2014. Individuals diagnosed pre-6th April 2014 can no longer apply to the scheme, this has been the case after 5th April 2017. The historical breakdown of cases between 2014 and 2018 are in table 4.

Payments

Between April 2014 and February 2015 the Scheme regulations specified that successful applicants be paid equivalent to 80 per cent of the average payment they would have received had they been successful through the civil courts system. In February 2015, the scheme's tariff payment was increased to 100 per cent of average equivalent civil compensation payments for those that were diagnosed either on or after 10th February 2015. Due to the time taken from application to decision, generally, the full effects of the change are not seen in average award figures until May 2015 onwards.

£172.6 million awarded in compensation since April 2014

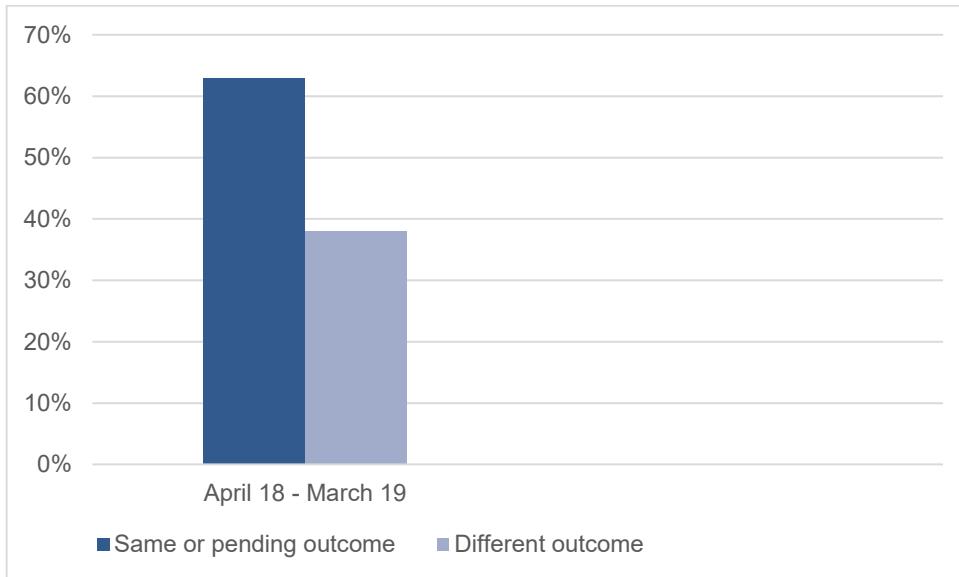


The average (mean) payment to successful applicants in the 12 months to March 2019 was around £148,000. Since April 2014, a total of £172.6 million has been paid out. This consists of £143.5 million of direct payments to applicants and £29.1 million which was repaid to the Department for Work and Pensions.

Where a person has already received government payments in respect of diffuse mesothelioma, this money is recovered from Scheme payments in accordance with the well-established principle that people should not receive money twice in respect of the same injury or disease. The liability to repay social security benefits rests with the person who makes the compensation payment (in this case the Scheme Administrator) and not the person suffering from the disease.

Reviews and Complaints

In 2018/19, 38 per cent of reviews have resulted in a different outcome for the applicant.



See Table 9 for full data.

If an applicant is unhappy with the outcome of their claim they may request that the scheme administrator review the decision of their application, giving reasons why they feel the decision was incorrect. If an applicant remains dissatisfied once the review has been completed, they may request that an independent appeal tribunal (known as the first tier tribunal) consider their case.

There were 50 unsuccessful applications between April 2018 and March 2019, 15 of which have been reviewed – this is equivalent to 33 per cent. In 2018/19, 5 of these 15 reviewed decisions resulted in a different outcome. This was often because additional information was supplied by the applicant that had not been available to the Scheme Administrator at the time of the first decision.

About these statistics

Where to find out more

More information about the Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme can be found at: <https://www.mesoscheme.org.uk/> or www.gov.uk/diffuse-mesothelioma-payment/overview

Previous publications can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/diffuse-mesothelioma-payment-scheme-statistics>

Other National and Official Statistics

Details of other National and Official Statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) can be found on the DWP website at the following links:

- Stat-Xplore provides a guided way to explore DWP benefit statistics, currently holding data relating to 12 different benefits/programmes: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/sf/login.xhtml>
- A schedule of statistical releases over the next 12 months and a list of the most recent releases: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics>
- In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, all DWP National Statistics are announced at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>

In addition, users can find links to DWP additional statistical analyses that have not been included in our standard publications at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/ad-hoc-statistical-publications-list>

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