

# Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme Official Statistics

## April 2014 to March 2017

Data to 31 March 2017

Biannually\*

Published: 05 July 2017

United Kingdom

Official

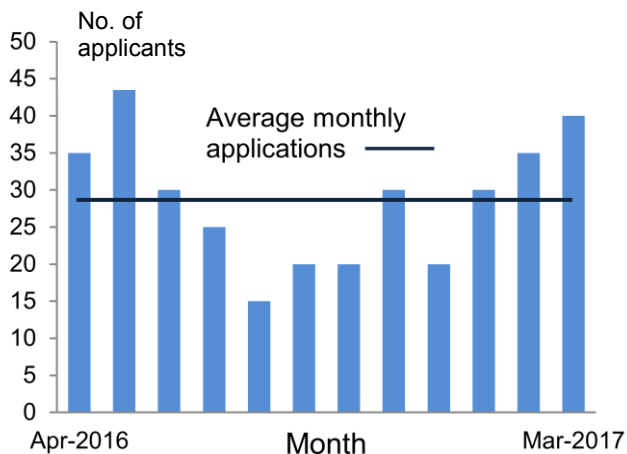
The Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme (DMPS) was launched throughout the UK on 6 April 2014. It provides payments to eligible sufferers of diffuse mesothelioma, or their eligible dependants, who were negligently exposed to asbestos during a period of employment, but who are unable to take legal action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

This is the fifth official statistics publication in this series. The fourth release contained statistics reporting on the DMPS, including applications received, success rates, and payments, from April 2014 to September 2016 inclusive. This release updates it with October 2016 to March 2017 data.

\*Note that we are currently consulting on changing the frequency of the statistical publications from biannual to annual and are inviting feedback from users of these statistics.

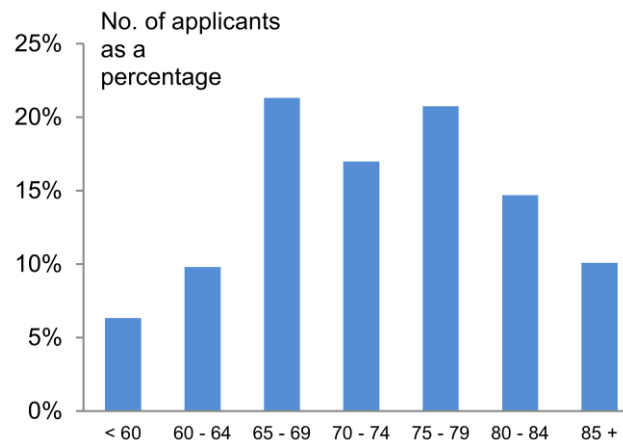
## Main stories

### Total applicants



Total applicants average (mean) 29 per month since April 2016.

### Age at diagnosis



In months April 2016 to March 2017 inclusive the vast majority of applicants were aged over 65.

### Success

65%

To date, 65 per cent of those who applied between April 2016 to January 2017 have been successful.\*\*

\*\*Note: the figure excludes the last 2 months of data (February and March 2017) due to significant impact of pending applications in those months.

## At a glance

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Thoughts? We welcome feedback

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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 people who have 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. Regulations require active employers' liability insurers to pay an annual levy based on their relative market share for the purpose of meeting the full costs of the Scheme (for example, the capital payments made to applicants, administration costs, 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 and in 2016/17 it was set at £40.4m.

Official statistics relating to the Scheme are currently released every six months and are sourced from data originally collected by Gallagher International Ltd (the Scheme Administrator) on behalf of the DWP. To reflect any updates, the full historical statistical series will be refreshed with each release and so previous figures may be updated based on new data. For example, applications with pending decisions may become successful or unsuccessful in subsequent releases.

## 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

To avoid disclosing information about individual applicants, all volumes have been rounded to the nearest 5, percentages to the nearest 1 per cent, total payment to the nearest £0.1 million and average payments to the nearest £1,000. Consequently, there may be slight discrepancies in final figures due to rounding.

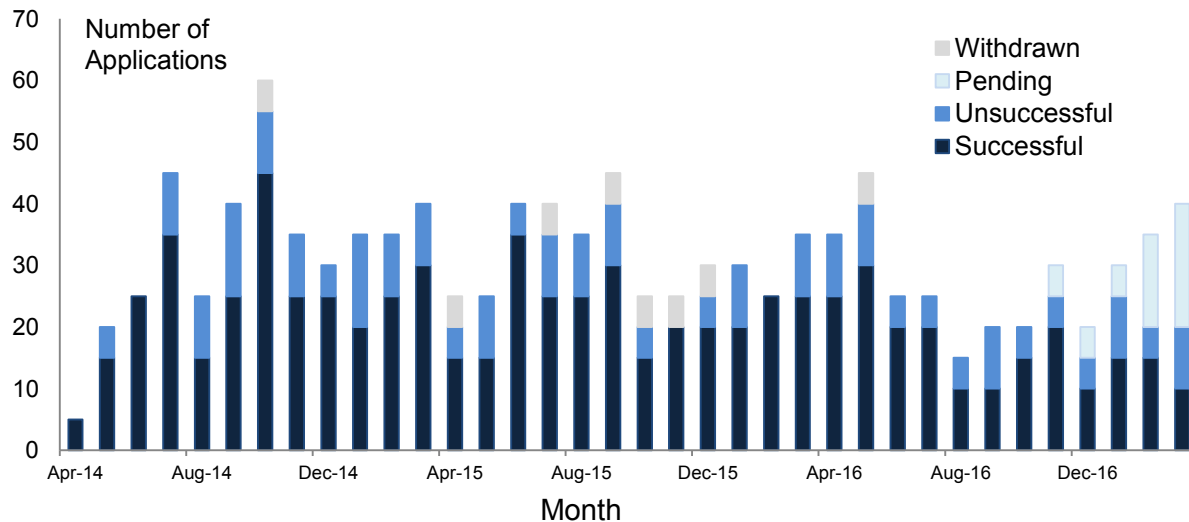
Data covers the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2017. It is acknowledged that the scheme did not open to receive applications until 6 April 2014.

We welcome feedback on the material provided to improve future releases.

# Applications

About two thirds of applications have been successful this year.

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



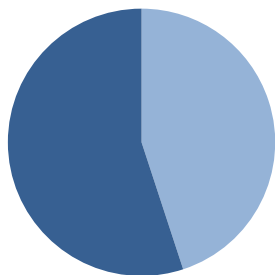
In the last financial year (April 2016 to March 2017), 24 per cent of applications have been unsuccessful, 2 per cent withdrawn, and 16 per cent have pending decisions (as at April 2017).

The last two months (February and March 2017) 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 two months, about two thirds (65 per cent) of all applications received from April 2016 to January 2017 have been successful compared to 67 per cent across all months since April 2014.

Removing pending applicants, 69 per cent of applications received in the last 12 months were successful. This figure increases to 70 per cent across all months since the scheme began.

Over a half of the applications required additional information, however this rate continues to fall.



- All information for a decision to be made is provided (2016/17)
- Required additional information (2016/17)

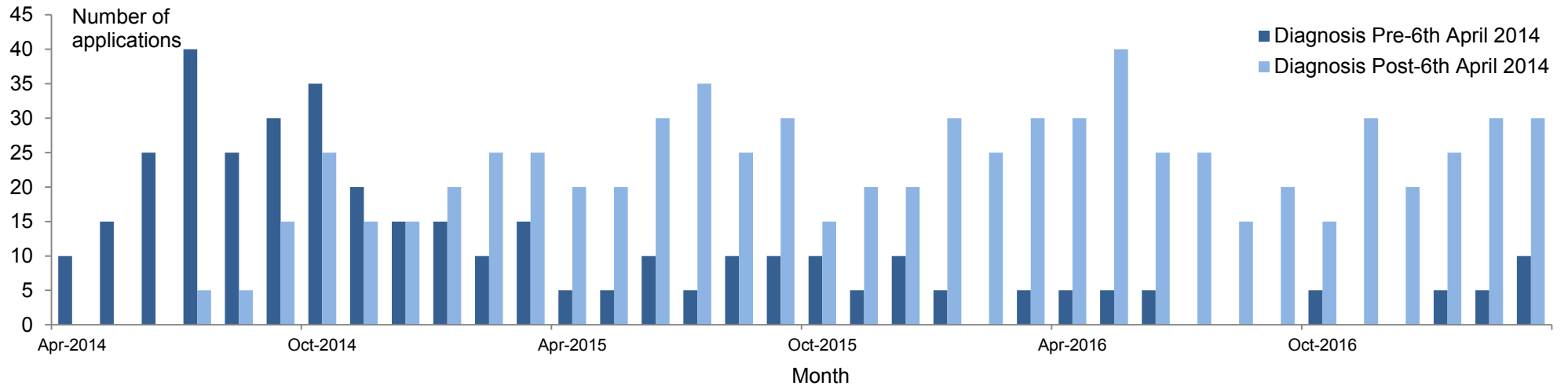
In the last 12 months, 55 per cent of applications required more information than was initially provided in order for a decision to be made, compared to 73 per cent in 2015/16 and 80 per cent in 2014/15. Overall, since April 2014, 70 per cent of all applications have required further information from the applicant.

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.

# Applicants

The number of applicants diagnosed pre-6<sup>th</sup> April 2014 had tailed off but increased slightly in the last few months.

The Scheme launched on 6 April 2014, accepting applications from individuals diagnosed with diffuse mesothelioma on or after 25 July 2012.



Initially the bulk of applications received related to a diagnosis pre-6 April 2014. This may have included a ‘stock’ of eligible people waiting for the Scheme to open. Since January 2015 more applications have been received from individuals diagnosed after the Scheme was launched on 6 April 2014 than from those diagnosed pre-6 April 2014, and from July 2016 until December 2016 almost all applications received were from individuals diagnosed after 6<sup>th</sup> April 2014. However, the final few months of 2016/17 saw a small number of applications from those diagnosed before 6 April 2014.

## The majority of applicants have been male.



The vast majority (90 per cent) of applicants in the last 12 months have been male. Across all months, this figure increases to 93 per cent. 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<sup>1</sup>.

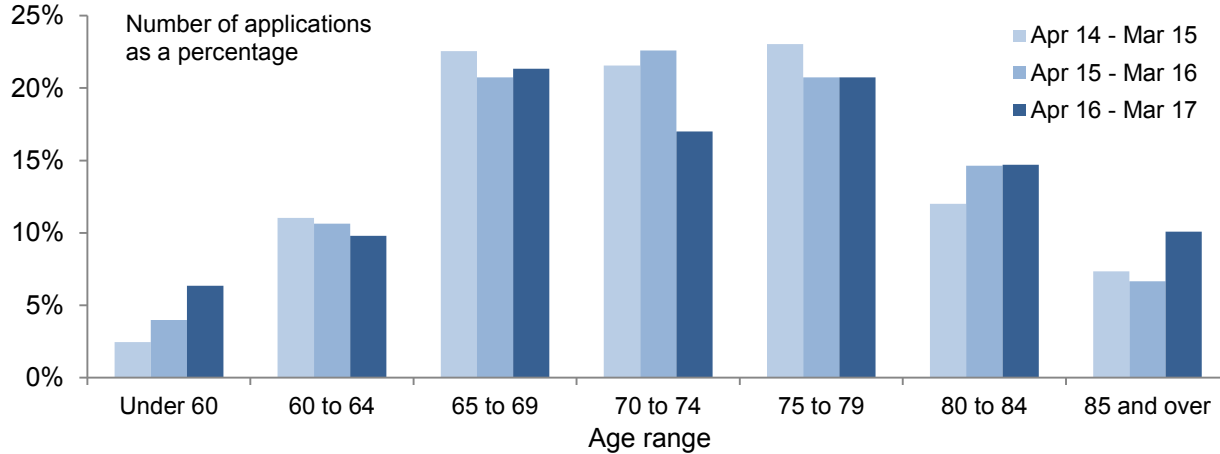
Note: the chart above shows the proportion based on all months since April 2014.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Institute of Cancer Research and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for HSE (2009) “Occupational, domestic and environmental mesothelioma risks in Britain.”

# Applicant Age

Applicants' ages at diagnosis are predominantly in the over 65 age groups.

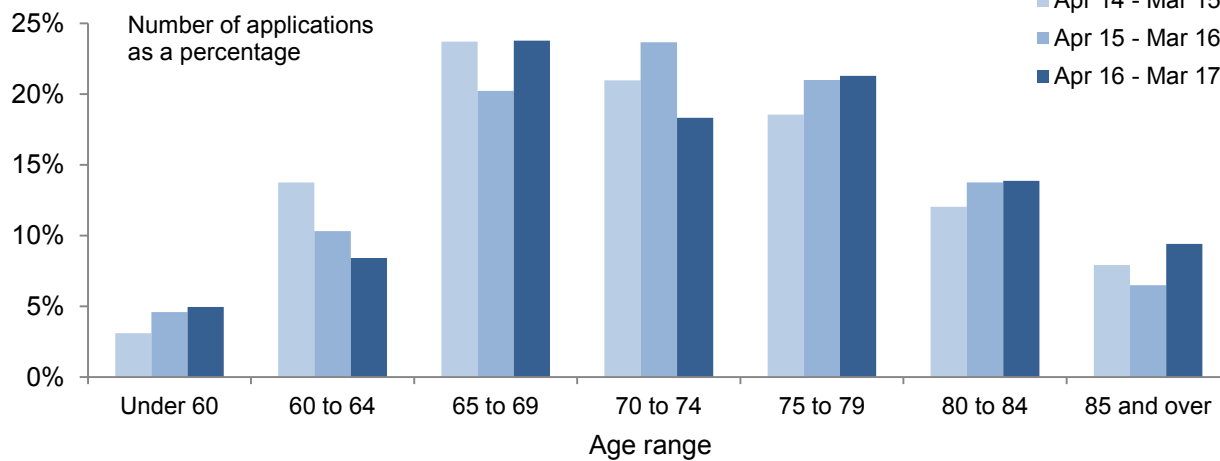
**Applicants' age at diagnosis**



There are no age restrictions on applicants but the amount received depends on the age of the applicant at the point of diagnosis.

The last 12 months to 31 March 2017 saw a minor drop in the proportion of applications from those in the 70-74 range (a drop of 6 percentage points on the previous year). An increasing proportion of applications was made by those in the under 60 and over 85 age groups.

**Successful applicants' age at diagnosis**

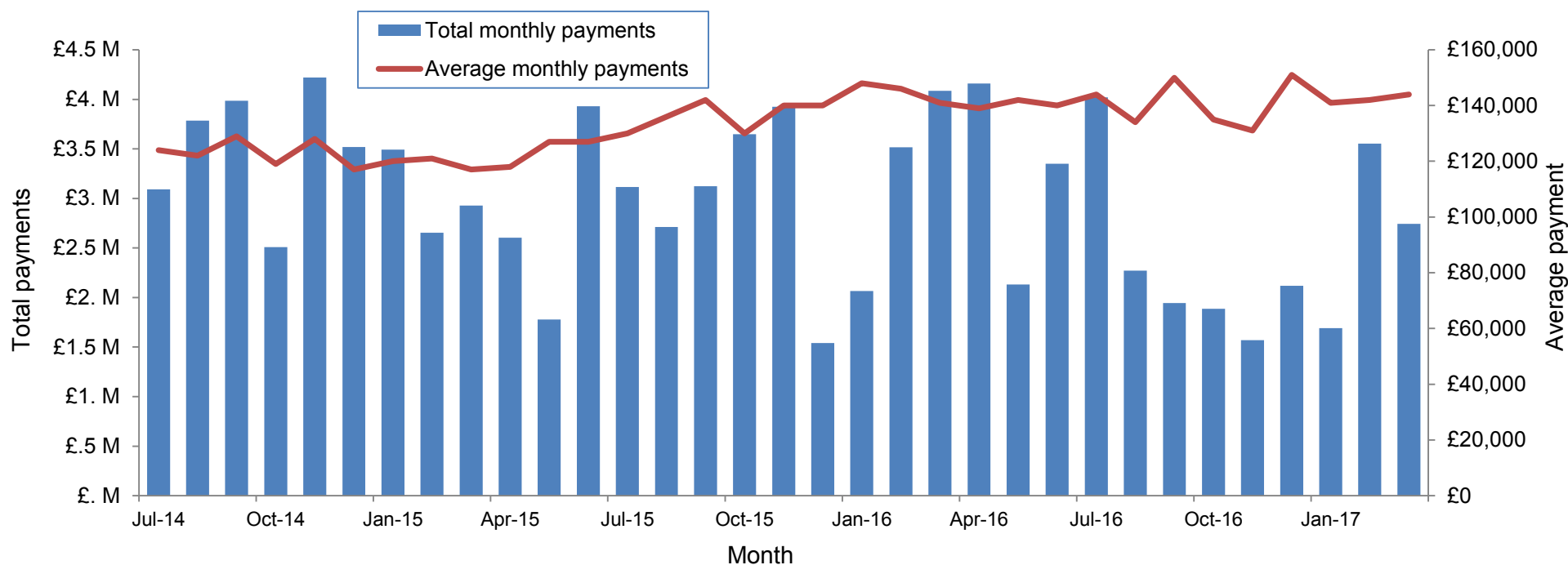


In 2016/17, almost two thirds of successful applicants (63 per cent) were aged between 65 and 79. By comparison, in 2015/16, 65 per cent of successful applicants were in this age group

# Payments

## £98 million awarded in compensation since April 2014.

Between April 2014 and February 2015 the Scheme regulations specified that successful applicants be paid equivalent to 80% 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% of average equivalent civil compensation payments for those that were diagnosed either on or after 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

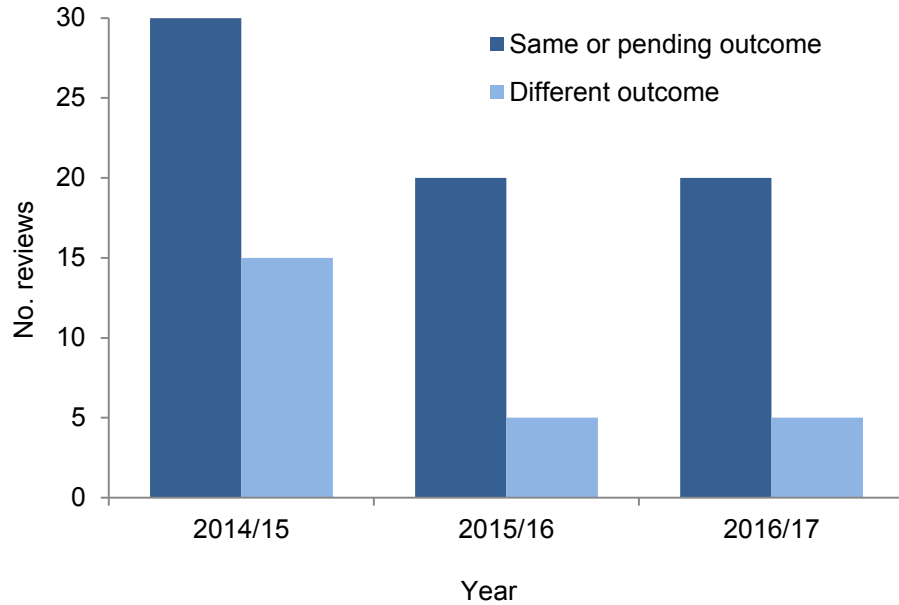


The average (mean) payment to successful applicants in the 12 months to March 2017 was around £141,000, up from £135,000 in 2015/16.

Since April 2014, a total of £97.7 million has been paid out. This consists of £80.1 million of direct payments to applicants and £17.6 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

Nearly one quarter of reviews have resulted in a different outcome for the applicant since 2014.



If an applicant is unhappy with the outcome of their claim they may request that Gallagher Bassett 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 85 unsuccessful applications between April 2016 and March 2017, 25 of which have been reviewed – this is equivalent to 31% which is slightly higher than 29% in the previous 12 months. Since April 2014 there have been 90 reviews from the 270 unsuccessful applicants. Nearly a quarter (20) of these 90 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.

10 applicants were unhappy with their review decision in 2016/17 and chose to refer their case to the First-tier Tribunal, compared to 15 in 2014/15 and 5 in 2015/16.

There have been no complaints made by applicants since the Scheme was first introduced.

# About these statistics

## Useful links

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

The previous four publications can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/diffuse-mesothelioma-payzment-scheme-statistics>

## Other National and Official Statistics

Details of other National and Official Statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions 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://sw.stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/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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