



25 FEBRUARY, 2010

STATEMENT FROM ASSOCIATION OF PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS (APIL) IN RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ON PLEURAL PLAQUES

We always believed the House of Lords' ruling should be overturned, so the Government's decision on pleural plaques is a disappointing end to a long, drawn out consultation process.

But we do recognise and welcome the Government's commitment to improve the law in other areas, and its proposals for change to help victims of mesothelioma. We are particularly pleased the Government has recognised the need to resolve difficulties experienced by mesothelioma sufferers as a result of differences in the value of claims which are settled before or after the death of the person concerned, as this is something APIL has been working towards for many years. It is now imperative that this long awaited, positive proposal is not buried in the aftermath of the general election.

The Government's move to take action to increase the upfront payments currently made to mesothelioma sufferers and their dependants, and the fact that the new payments will be available from April, is a very welcome development.

-ENDS-

Note to editors: For more information, contact Lorraine Gwinnutt, t: 0115 9388707.