Questionnaire

Name: Joanne Gordon representative of the Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum (Employed by DAST – Derbyshire Asbestos Support Team)

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Asbestos usage:-

Usage: (See diagram 1, page 5)

- **Types of asbestos**: Chrysotile, crocidolite and amosite
- **National consumption at its highest**: Estimated to be between 1940s – 1970s
- **What was the main purpose of asbestos**: Insulation material. The construction industry is thought to have given the most boost to the asbestos industry. It is thought that over 3,000 products made use of asbestos during the peak of usage.
- **How common was the use of asbestos?** Very common – it is estimated that 500,000 workplace buildings contain asbestos and many more domestic properties contain asbestos. 75% of UK schools contain asbestos.
- **How is asbestos waste dealt with**: -
  
  Waste containing more than 0.1% of asbestos is classed as hazardous waste. Asbestos waste regulations, enforced by the Environment Agency, prescribe strict conditions on labelling, storing, transporting and disposal of asbestos waste.

  However, due to lack of awareness about asbestos in the homes, it is unlikely that asbestos will be dealt with in a safe manner following natural disasters such as storms, earthquakes.

Human Cost

- **How many people diagnosed with asbestos related diseases in the UK?**
  
  Approximately, 
  Mesothelioma 2558 (Cancer Research UK)
  Estimated lung cancer 2000
  Asbestosis 1015
  Pleural thickening 505
  Pleural plaques 778

- **How many asbestos-related deaths are recorded each year?** See attached MES001 and ASIS01 (pages 6,7). If unclear web addresses are:-
  
  www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/meso01.xls
  www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/asis01.xls

- **Asbestos and other cancer deaths**: There has been interest in recent years of asbestos causing other cancers, particularly laryngeal cancer or ovarian
cancer. However, very little statistical evidence is available as asbestos is not recognised to cause other cancers in the UK. The only available statistics available are from Cancer Research UK which stated that in 2005 3 laryngeal cancers were thought to be occupational. The Industrial Advisory Council have looked at laryngeal cancer on 2 occasions and found no doubling of risk to prescribe the disease.

**Government Regulations and Policy**

**Prohibit the import, use and sale of asbestos**

- REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals Regulations 2006)

**Recognise asbestos-related diseases as occupationally-caused?**

- The Social Security (Industrial Injuries) (Prescribed Diseases) Regulations 1985

**Diseases recognised as occupationally caused?** Pleural thickening, Asbestosis, Mesothelioma, Lung cancer with asbestosis, lung cancer in absence of asbestosis (strict exposure guidelines apply).

**Are Self-employed workers compensated?** Not under Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit – Social security weekly benefit must be an employed earner. However, 2008 Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme – self employed people are compensated providing exposed in the UK.

**Provide protection for workers at risk of exposure ie construction workers, demolition workers & mandate measurers for minimizing hazardous exposures**

- Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012

**Have surveys been carried out to determine the amount of asbestos in schools etc?** No

**What is the Government Policy for removing asbestos?** It is to manage the risk and remove asbestos where necessary.

**State help for sufferers from Asbestos-related Diseases (ARD)**

- The Government provides help for patients with ARDs which includes Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit and a lump sum compensation. The Government has recently announced a tariff scheme to pay victims of Mesothelioma where the negligent company’s insurers cannot be traced. It will take 2 years to introduce the legislation
• The Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit and lump sum payment [(2008 Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme and Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers’ Compensation) Act] are part of the social security scheme
• Mesothelioma, Lung Cancer (strict exposure history applies), Lung cancer with asbestosis, asbestosis, pleural thickening – Cannot get benefit or compensation for pleural plaques
• The Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit and lump sum [(2008 Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme and Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers’ Compensation) Act 1979 Along with any benefits relating to disability or means tested benefits.
• A mesothelioma sufferer in receipt of Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit over a 12 month period will receive 10,468.88 euros. Assuming the average sufferer is 71 the amount of lump sum compensation will be 19,550.47 euros. The minimum lump sum for someone over 77 will be 16,122.55 euros.

Stakeholders
• Active Stakeholders:
  o Asbestos Support Groups Forum, C/O Tony Whitston, GMAVSG, Windrush Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Moss Side, Manchester M16 7WD (asbestos.mcr@gmail.com) or Joanne Gordon, C/o DAST, 34 Glumangate, Chesterfield, S40 1TX (mail@asbestossupport.co.uk) or Doug Jewell, ASWM, 138 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6DR dougj@wmht.co.uk
  o Asbestos in Schools - Michael Lees [michael@lees1262.fsworld.co.uk]
  o TUC – Hugh Robertson [HRobertson@TUC.ORG.UK]
  o International Ban Asbestos Secretariat – Laurie Kazen-Allen [lka@btinternet.com]
  o Mesothelioma UK – Liz Darlison - Nurse Consultant [liz.darlison@uhl-tr.nhs.uk]
  o Mesothelioma Research Charities
  o BLF, British Lung Foundation, 73-75 Goswell Road London, EC1V 7ER
  o Macmillan Cancer Support, 89 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7UQ

• Active campaign: - Yes – as above

Key issues:-
  o Research into diagnosis/treatment/Cure for Mesothelioma
  o Protection of workers, especially maintenance workers
  o Asbestos in Schools
  o Asbestos in domestic properties
Employers’ Liability Insurance Bureau (A fund of last resort to pay victims of asbestos related diseases where the insurer cannot be traced)

What do you think are the priority areas for the European Parliament
  o Harmonisation of regulations to the highest standard of domestic law.
  o Enforcement of regulations to protect workers and others from exposure to asbestos

Personal goals
To develop best practice to help and support victims of asbestos related disease. To determine if additional diseases are prescribed throughout the EU. To develop campaigning priorities for the UK based on EU evidence. Forging links with other support groups.
Figure 1: Asbestos supply and consumption trends (1990-2000), asbestos and mesothelioma cases (1970-2005, GB)

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| **Other death certificates mentioning asbestosis** | 24 | 29 | 19 | 12 | 18 | 20 | 27 | 28 | 26 | 43 | 39 | 37 | 34 | 46 | 33 | 50 | 57 | 53 | 67 | 59 | 59 | 57 | 66 | 69 | 78 | 80 | 128 | 129 | 141 | 140 | 142 | 137 |
| **Other death certificates without mesothelioma or lung cancer** | 74 | 71 | 65 | 60 | 69 | 81 | 82 | 76 | 59 | 100 | 82 | 91 | 112 | 82 | 78 | 122 | 98 | 70 | 77 | 57 | 50 | 62 | 71 | 72 | 68 | 60 | 56 | 66 | 66 | 65 | 65 | 36 |
| **Other death certificates which also mention mesothelioma** | 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| **Other death certificates which also mention lung cancer** | 56 | 43 | 48 | 70 | 67 | 53 | 58 | 60 | 61 | 51 | 76 | 73 | 72 | 52 | 68 | 65 | 63 | 62 | 60 | 67 | 45 | 52 | 48 | 62 | 48 | 44 | 44 | 59 | 54 | 67 | 52 |
| **Other death certificates which also mention both** | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **Total** | 158 | 144 | 133 | 142 | 159 | 158 | 170 | 169 | 170 | 197 | 198 | 202 | 218 | 213 | 178 | 246 | 233 | 186 | 205 | 186 | 167 | 173 | 186 | 224 | 192 | 185 | 228 | 240 | 266 | 259 | 275 | 252 |

**Notes:**
(a) The underlying cause of death is defined as the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death.
(b) Some death certificates mention asbestosis with lung cancer and/or mesothelioma. In some cases - particularly where mesothelioma is mentioned - the word "asbestosis" may have been used incorrectly to indicate the role of asbestosis in causing mesothelioma and/or lung cancer.