



Re: Industrial diseases amendments, agreed by peers, to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill

Sir,

When peers voted to prevent victims of industrial diseases from being subjected to the Government's proposed restrictions of 'no-win, no-fee', they voted for common sense.

Many workers who are exposed to asbestos, for example, and who later develop the aggressive lung cancer mesothelioma, have only a few months left to live. So it is vital that the legal system serves them properly and ensures they are fully compensated as quickly as possible.

This is a matter of utmost importance for your readers, as Government statistics show that your area has one of the highest death rates for mesothelioma in England and Wales.

MPs must now ensure these important amendments are not overturned when the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Bill returns to the House of Commons later this month.

The amendments to help industrial disease victims are among the few proposals in the Bill which aim to help genuine claimants, so it would be a huge injustice if the Government were to overturn them now.



It is still, however, bitterly disappointing that policymakers have not given the same degree of consideration to other victims of injury, whose lives may also have been devastated through no fault of their own.

Yours sincerely,

Karl Tonks
Vice president
Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)