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MP BACKS CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT ASBESTOS VICTIMS

Edinburgh South MP Ian Murray is backing a national campaign to help people suffering from industrial diseases.

Not-for-profit organisation APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers) has lobbied fiercely for a compensation fund of last resort for sick and injured workers whose former employers' insurers cannot be traced.

"This is particularly urgent for people who were exposed to asbestos at work years ago and are now sick and dying. They're entitled to proper compensation to help them and their families through a very tough time," said Mr Murray.

"Mesothelioma is a particularly horrifying cancer which materialises years after exposure to asbestos, after which time insurance records have often been misplaced. Without the safety net of a fund of last resort, these people are left with no recourse to the compensation which should at least give them some comfort in the last days of life," he added.

The previous Government consulted on the proposed fund, known as the Employers' Liability Insurance Bureau, but the outcome has still not been announced nearly 18 months after the consultation closed.

"People are dying while we continue to wait," said APIL president David Bott.

"The kind of fund we're proposing won't cost the taxpayer anything, and will bring justice for those workers who badly need it.

"We need more MPs like Mr Murray to support this campaign and urge the Government to do the right thing for injured people."



Notes for editors:

- APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers) is a not-for-profit organisation, whose members are dedicated to campaigning for improvements in the law to help people who are injured or become ill through no fault of their own.
- See APIL's response to the Government consultation, Accessing Compensation, here: <http://files.apil.org.uk/pdf/ConsultationDocuments/1763.pdf>.
- For more information, please contact press and communications officers Chris Birkle (t: 0115 943 5409, e: chris.birkle@apil.org.uk) or Jane Hartwell (t: 0115 943 5416, e: jane.hartwell@apil.org.uk).
- Visit the association's website at www.apil.org.uk.