

**Asbestos Victims Support Groups' Forum UK**

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Press Release.....Immediate Release

***Asbestos Victims Condemn "The Injustice Bill"***

On the 21 June the Government unveiled the Legal aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.

Part 2 of the Bill contains provisions to make personal injury claimants bear legal costs which were paid by the defendant who is guilty of causing injury.

The provisions are drawn from Sir Rupert Jackson's 'Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding in England and Wales which *"provide the opportunity to rebalance the risks of litigation between claimants and defendants"*

Tony Whitston, Forum Chair, says:

*"Mesothelioma sufferers endure pain and suffering and an untimely death because of the risks of exposure to asbestos they had to take. Now they are told that they must carry the risks of suing for compensation – isn't the risk of losing their lives enough? Where is the justice in making dying asbestos victims bear the burden of legal costs on top of the pain and suffering, while rich and powerful insurance companies enjoy relief from costs which the losing party have, and should, rightly bear. The fact is that many frail and terminally ill sufferers will no longer sue for compensation, fearing more uncertainty and stress of litigation. A victory for Government cost cutting but a defeat for justice and a shameful attack on compensation for those who have lost their health and their lives."*

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