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Lord Freud
Minister for Welfare Reform
Caxton House
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An open letter to Lord Freud

Dear Lord Freud,

My Dad Phillip Charles Hampshire was a dearly loved and doting Husband, Father, Brother and Uncle.

He was healthy and active and worked hard all of his short life to raise and look after myself (his Daughter Sheree), Son Charles and his loving wife of over 35 years, Pauline. He would do anything for anyone, the life and soul of our family. He had started to feel poorly and was we found out the dreadful truth in December 2010 when my Dad was shockingly diagnosed with Mesothelioma from Asbestos exposure. He passed away only weeks later on the 26th January 2011 after suffering terribly from this wretched, cruel, man-made disease.

He suffered terrible, agonising pain and became paralysed and bed ridden for the last tortuous, unbearable 5 weeks of his life. Myself, my Mum and my Brother had to witness the most important person in our lives become less than a shell of his former self, unable to do anything for himself.

The government KNEW how dangerous asbestos was and COULD and SHOULD have prevented thousands of families like mine from suffering this petrifying illness and totally needless loss of innocent lives.

My Mum (who is retired) has been left a widow, struggling to pay her mortgage and household bills and now faces losing our family home that she has shared with my Dad for over 20 years. No one should have to go through such trauma and loss and then have the worry of losing their home.

I find it despicable in this country we call "GREAT BRITAIN" that we treat our citizens and tax payers with such disregard. My Dad worked hard all his life, paying his taxes and looking after his family only to be given this death sentence of a disease in return.

My Dad's life was cut short so cruelly, he has missed out on becoming a Grandfather, I have decided not to marry as I can't bear the thought of my Dad not giving me away. Myself and

my Brother (both usually happy go lucky people) are being treated for depression after the shock and stress of our loss. My Mum is trying to hold it together for sake of her family. Our Solicitors have found no insurer for the Company my Dad worked for (Humphreys & Co) when he came into contact with this vile, evil asbestos.

With the new compensation bill, we stand to receive nothing. My Dad told us how worried he was for us and our financial future, even though he was so, so ill his first thought and worry was for the family that he would leave behind so shockingly fast.

How can he rest in peace when his family are in such tatters? It breaks my heart to know that Dad will be looking down on us and worrying about our future, after the stress, sadness and torment we have already suffered we should not now have the imminent worry of losing our family home. How can my poor Dad rest in peace with this over our heads?

Surely there should be some safety net for families such as mine whom have already suffered such loss, we should not be in a position where we face losing our family home as well after everything we have been through ? My Dad asked Who would care for us? He was so worried for us.

The very, very least we deserve is some kind of fund that will protect families like us and cover any outstanding mortgage on a family home. I understand families that are "lucky" enough to be included in the compensation bill may only receive 30% less of their compensation?

WHERE IS THE JUSTICE IN ANY OF THIS ?

I don't know how you sleep at night knowing this is happening to your people. Please re-consider for the sake of my family and the thousands of others that will find themselves in our position. You owe it to us to try and put this right in some way, somehow.

My Dad was a very skilled man, if he had been told of the danger of asbestos he would have chosen a different career, he would never have put himself at risk. He didn't choose to leave us like this.

Please, Please help us, I am begging you.

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