



Chair: Tony Whitston - Secretary: Joanne Gordon  
Windrush Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road  
Manchester M16 7WD

asbestos.gmavsg@gmail.com  
Tel: 0161 636 7555 or 07748189837

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Dr. Penny Woods  
Chief Executive  
British Lung Foundation  
73-75 Goswell Road  
London  
EC1V 7ER

25 July 2013

Dear Dr. Woods

**Re: BLF/MKMRF Mesothelioma Compensation Survey**

I am writing on behalf of the Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum UK to express our profound concerns at the misuse of the draft BLF/MKMRF Mesothelioma Compensation Survey by the Association of British Insurers' (ABI). I have written separately to Chris Knighton (MKMRF) regarding our concerns.

After several representations we have now received a copy of the draft BLF/MKMRF Mesothelioma Compensation Survey (the Survey) on the 24 July.

The draft survey has been used extensively in the ABI's Report, Reforming the civil justice system for mesothelioma, sent to all Parliamentarians on the eve of the Report debate on the Mesothelioma Bill, 17 July 2013. It has also been cited in the MoJ consultation on reforming mesothelioma claims published 24 July 2013.

We are extremely concerned at the selective quotes taken from the Survey by the ABI, and the biased and misleading presentation of the survey findings in support of the ABI's proposals for reforming the mesothelioma claims process.

We have written to the Ministry of Justice to complain about the damaging effect of the ABI Report just seven days before the publication of the consultation on reforming the mesothelioma claims process.

We think it unprofessional for any organisation to cite your Survey prior to publication. To do so in manner adopted by the ABI is, in our opinion, a disgrace. Parliamentarians had no opportunity to refer to your Survey when reading the ABI Report, which we think is misleading and damaging to the interests of mesothelioma sufferers.

We do not know if the ABI were given permission to use the Survey in it's Report prior to publication. If they were, we consider that they have abused that permission.

I have enclosed a copy of the ABI Report. If you agree with our concerns we would be very grateful if you would discuss them with MKMRF colleagues. We think the ABI Report should be publicly repudiated for its misrepresentation of your Survey.

Yours sincerely

Tony Whitston