



## CAPE MUST PAY

**We demand that Cape donate £10 million for medical research into a cure for mesothelioma.**

**In 2017 the Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum (the Forum) started a legal battle to obtain documents that Cape International Holdings (Cape) had been forced to disclose in an earlier court case. The Supreme Court granted the Forum access to many of these documents which we have now made publicly available at [Cape Documents - Asbestos Victims Support Group Forum - UK](http://Cape Documents - Asbestos Victims Support Group Forum - UK) ([asbestosforum.org.uk](http://asbestosforum.org.uk))**

### Who are Cape?

Cape was one of the largest asbestos companies in the world, with extensive mining interests in South Africa as well as factories in the UK. Their asbestos products were widely used in construction in this country, especially Asbestolux and Marinite insulation boards. These products are at the heart of the mesothelioma epidemic in the UK.

### What is mesothelioma?

Mesothelioma is an incurable cancer of the chest wall and abdomen caused by inhaling asbestos dust. It takes between 20-60 years for the disease to develop following exposure to asbestos.

The UK has the highest rates of mesothelioma in the world, with around 2,500 people dying of this disease each year. More people die of mesothelioma than in road traffic accidents in this country. Similar numbers die each year of asbestos-related lung cancer and other asbestos diseases according to the Health & Safety Executive (HSE).

### Cape put profits before lives

These documents show that Cape:

- Downplayed the fatal risks of working with their products;
- Encouraged others to suppress this information;
- Withheld their own data which showed that working with and handling their asbestos products released far more dust than had previously been admitted or allowed by Government safeguards;
- Successfully lobbied the Government to water down allowable exposure limits and product warnings.

Cape did all this despite knowing of the link between asbestos and mesothelioma. They put their profits before the lives of their own workers, transport workers moving their products, construction workers using their products, sub-contractors going into their factories, women washing their husbands' overalls and people living near to their factories

### We demand that Cape now donate £10 million to mesothelioma research.

Cape played a central role in the mesothelioma epidemic. It is only right that Cape is held accountable for the lives they have destroyed. Many more people will die of mesothelioma because of Cape's actions unless a cure is found.

Money is desperately needed for research into a cure for this terrible disease. Cape is a wealthy company with £millions in reserves accumulated on the backs of those they exposed to asbestos. **We are now calling on Cape to face up to their responsibility for this human catastrophe and fund medical research into a cure for mesothelioma.**

### What you can do to support the campaign?

- ◆ Sign the petition at <https://www.change.org/CapeMustPay>
- ◆ Pass a motion in support of the campaign in your union branch/committee
- ◆ Write to Cape demanding they fund mesothelioma research
- ◆ Ask your MP to support the campaign - see form below.
- ◆ Model letters & resolutions can be downloaded from <https://asbestos.forum.org.uk/campaign-resources>

Dear..... MP

**I support the campaign #CapeMustPay. I am asking you to support this campaign too.**

Name(s).....  
Address.....  
Postcode.....