

Mesothelioma Campaign Petition Handed into 10 Downing Street

A petition signed by over 20,000 people was handed into 10 Downing Street, on the 20th May 2009. The petition is urging the government to provide funding for a specialist research centre for mesothelioma. [Mesothelioma](#) is a cancer caused by exposure to asbestos which is the least researched of the UK's top 20 cancers.

According to the [British Lung Foundation](#), more than 2,000 people are diagnosed with mesothelioma every year in the UK and there is one mesothelioma death every five hours. The number of deaths from mesothelioma increased from 153 in 1968 to 1,969 in 2004 and is expected to peak at 2,450 between 2011 and 2015.

Campaigners including asbestos disease support groups, doctors and some MP's are urging the government to establish the National Centre for asbestos related disease.

The proposed centre will be a virtual centre linking up research teams from across the UK and Ireland. The government is asked to provide £5 million with a further £5 million coming from other sources.

John Pickering and Partners LLP are aware of the drastic need for funding and on the 14th June 2009 a team of John Pickering and Partners LLP employees will be taking part in a charity 10k run in Victoria Park, London. All proceeds raised will go towards Barts and the London Heart Attack Centre, Barts and the The London Children's Hospital and the Mesothelioma Research Project conducted at St Bartholomew's Hospital.

To find out more information or to sponsor us please visit www.justgiving.com/johnpickering. All donations will make a huge difference and are greatly appreciated.

Further information:

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[Contact us](#) to find out more about your entitlement to claim compensation if you have been diagnosed with mesothelioma or another asbestos related condition.

Notes

[John Pickering and Partners LLP](#)- Specialist [mesothelioma compensation](#) solicitors

We are a specialist personal injury law firm. We have been handling claims for industrial disease for over 30 years. Most of our work involves acting for asbestos disease victims. We only act for the sufferers of asbestos diseases and never act for the organisations that caused the asbestos exposure or their insurers. We have an ethical approach and pledge to donate 10% of our net profits every year to good causes that help asbestos sufferers. [Click here](#) to find out about our donations to good causes. We have also been involved in most of the landmark judgments that shape this area of law. Find out more [about us](#) or find out about [our reported cases](#). We are on the panels of several asbestos support groups and are ranked highly by legal guides. [Click here](#) to find out more about what others have said about us.

[John Pickering and Partners LLP](#) is a niche legal practice that has represented Claimants in the leading asbestos "test cases" in the last ten years. The firm represented Sylvia Barker in *Barker v Corus (UK) Plc*, a case that highlighted the legal tactics of employers and insurers trying to cut back their compensation liabilities to mesothelioma sufferers, and which prompted the amendment of the Compensation Act 2006 to ensure full compensation for mesothelioma claims. The firm represented two of the three Claimants in the *Fairchild appeal*, in which the insurance industry tried unsuccessfully to block compensation altogether for mesothelioma sufferers unable to identify which of two or more sources of asbestos exposure had caused their illness.

The firm represented Alice Jefferson, a mesothelioma sufferer, whose illness and compensation claim against Cape Asbestos were featured in the important documentary "*Alice: A Fight For Life*." Shown by Yorkshire Television in July 1982, the programme was an important catalyst for legal change and public awareness of the plight of mesothelioma and other asbestos disease sufferers and a prompt for important legal reform.

Mesothelioma is a type of cancer that affects the lining of certain bodily organs. It most commonly affects the lining of the lungs (the pleura) but it can affect other areas including organs in the abdominal cavity (the peritoneum).

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The [British Lung Foundation](#), supported by John Pickering and Partners LLP, launched the first Action Mesothelioma Day on 27th February 2006, to raise awareness about mesothelioma, to improve the treatment and care of mesothelioma patients, and to lobby for better funding for research into mesothelioma and for the protection and education of people working with asbestos.

If you need advice about an asbestos related illness, [contact us](#) now for information about making a claim for compensation.