

# Welcome

Welcome to our Winter 2025 Newsletter. I would like to begin with thanking all of you who have continued to support Asbestos Action throughout the year by, attending our events, making donations or liking and commenting on our posts on both Facebook and X. We are very grateful for your support.

On June 4th Action Mesothelioma Day, we held an event to bring together those who had lost a loved one to mesothelioma as well as those living with the disease. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event, which also included some impromptu dancing! This gave me an idea for later in the year.

Jenny and Aileen, along with one of our Directors, Dr Colin Selby, attended a debate in the Scottish Parliament on mesothelioma on June 19th alongside members of Clydebank Asbestos Group, showing solidarity for victims across Scotland.

On the 12th September 2025, the first Scottish Asbestos Conference was held in Glasgow by Digby Brown. The speakers came from a variety of backgrounds making for a first class event. Asbestos Action and Clydebank Asbestos Group presented a cheque for £5000 to Professor Kevin Blyth for mesothelioma research. In 2026, a similar conference will be held, this time in Edinburgh. I would urge you to look out for this event as it is extremely informative and Asbestos Action will be the host charity.

Asbestos Action applied for and received funding from the "Communities Mental Health and Well Being Fund" via Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action. We used part of this funding to create a Pre-Christmas Event at Malmaison, Dundee on 18th November 2025. The aim of the event was to bring people together to assist in the reduction of isolation, offer social

interaction and improve mental health. We also invited other local charities to attend supporting clients and families with these key areas. The event was a huge success, with feedback being extremely positive, many people asked if we could do the same next year! One person spoke of "feeling alive again" while another shared that this was the first time they had been out socially since their diagnosis and it was a turning point for them.

Of course the most important area of our work is ensuring we respond to every referral we receive and offering the best service we can to those individuals and their families. We have noted an increase in referrals across the board this year to date for all conditions, compared to the last three years. This means the charity is busier than ever and my grateful thanks go to the Asbestos Action team for their hard work, commitment and dedication to everyone they support.

Sadly we have to say goodbye to Aileen after three years with Asbestos Action. Aileen has been the lead worker for Pleural Plaques cases as well as our administrator and many of you will know her as a helpful and kind voice on the phone. I, on behalf of the charity wish to thank her for her commitment and dedication to Asbestos Action, often going above and beyond.

Finally, thank you once again for taking time to read our Winter newsletter and if you would like to contribute to our next one, please get in touch. The charity will be open during the festive season apart from the bank holidays.

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Dianne.



Dianne Foster,  
General Manager



# News

Helping, supporting, advising - to keep you informed

WINTER 2025



# LEGAL UPDATE



## Low-Exposure Arguments and Recent Developments

More and more asbestos cases now involve relatively modest or short-lived exposures rather than the heavy, dusty environments of decades past. Although the Fairchild principle still allows mesothelioma sufferers to succeed by showing a "material increase in risk," the courts have become noticeably stricter about what that actually means when the dose is very low.

Two recent decisions underline the point:

- *Kerr v Midlothian Council* – The court accepted evidence that the exposure from asbestos mats used in classrooms was extremely limited and concluded that it did not amount to a material increase in the risk of mesothelioma.
- *Johnstone v Fawcett's Garage* – Here, a clerical worker's exposure from brake and clutch work nearby was said to raise her overall lifetime risk by less than 0.1%. Both the trial judge and the Court of Appeal held that this fell below the level required under Fairchild.

The overall direction is becoming clear: courts are increasingly prepared to treat very low exposures as legally insignificant.

### How we are responding

Because these cases now turn so heavily on risk analysis and dose modelling, we are widening the range of experts we work with. Alongside medical and occupational hygiene evidence, we are now bringing in statisticians and epidemiologists who can look more closely at:

- how defence experts have approached dose estimates
- whether the underlying studies really support the conclusions being drawn
- how real-world patterns of exposure may differ from the standard models
- whether even modest exposures can still affect overall risk in a meaningful way.

This more rounded, multidisciplinary approach is becoming essential if we are to counter the increasingly common "de minimis exposure" arguments being run by insurers.

### The Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme (DMPS)

DMPS is designed to compensate people diagnosed with mesothelioma who cannot pursue a civil claim because their

former employer no longer exists and no insurer can be traced. It is often the only financial support available in these circumstances.

There has been a welcome development: DMPS payments have risen by 49% for new diagnoses after November 2025. While the scheme still sits below the level of compensation a civil claim might achieve, the uplift is a significant improvement for those who would otherwise receive very little.

### Summary

Overall, the courts' approach to low-dose exposure is becoming more demanding, and it is vital that our expert evidence keeps pace with these developments. The increase in DMPS payments, however, offers genuinely positive news for those unable to bring a civil claim.



*Euan Love,  
Partner, Digby Brown*

# Pension Age Disability Payment" (PADP)

In the past few months, I have been asked questions about "Pension Age Disability Payment" (PADP) and what is it? Well, I thought I would put together a wee Q&A just to give you all an idea of what PADP is all about.

## Pension Age Disability Payment

### What is Pension Age Disability Payment (PADP)?

This is a financial benefit for individuals aged 66 and over in Scotland who have a disability or long-term health condition, designed to assist with additional costs related to their care needs.

**What is the purpose of Pension Age Disability Payment (PADP)?** Well this is intended to provide extra financial support to older adults who require assistance due to disabilities or health conditions. It replaces the Attendance Allowance in Scotland and is not means-tested, meaning your income and savings do not affect eligibility.

### How could I qualify for PADP?

You must meet the following criteria, for example:

- 1. Age:** You must be of State Pension age (currently 66 years) or older.
- 2. Health Condition:** You should have a long-term disability or health condition that requires help or supervision, even if you do not currently receive that help.

**3. Duration of Needs:** Generally, you must have had care or supervision needs for at least six months, unless you have a terminal illness, for example mesothelioma, then you could apply under the special rules.

## Payment Rates

How much financial assistance can I expect from PADP? Well, as of April 2025, the payment rates for PADP are as follows:

**Lower Rate: £73.90 per week** for those needing help during the day or supervision at night.

**Higher Rate: £110.40 per week** for those requiring assistance both day and night, or for individuals who are terminally ill.

## Application Process

### How do I go about claiming PADP?

That's easy - you can apply for PADP through Social Security Scotland. The application can be completed online or via a paper form. If you need assistance, a friend or family member can apply on your behalf or Social Security Scotland have an outreach service that could assist you, however if you are a client of Asbestos Action and your health issue is asbestos-related then one of our caseworkers would be glad to assist you with your application.

### What if I am already in receipt of Attendance Allowance?

If you are currently receiving Attendance Allowance, you will automatically transition to PADP without needing to reapply, you should receive a letter confirming this.

## Additional Information

What other support can I expect if I am successful with my PADP claim? Receiving PADP may also entitle you to other benefits, such as a Disabled Person's Railcard or assistance with council tax reductions.

In short, THE PADP payment is designed to help with various personal care needs, such as bathing, dressing, and mobility, but you do not need to be receiving formal care to qualify.

This payment aims to alleviate some of the financial burdens faced by older adults with disabilities, ensuring they can maintain a better quality of life.

For more detailed information, you can contact Asbestos Action for further information.

**0808 196 1861**

Email: [info@asbestosaction.org.uk](mailto:info@asbestosaction.org.uk)

## Pre-Christmas event at Malmaison in Dundee

On Tuesday the 18th of November we hosted a Pre-Christmas event at Malmaison in Dundee for our local clients and their families and over 70 people attended. Our guests also included those who have lost loved ones as well as charities offering support in the local area and representatives from Digby Brown.

We had a fabulous three course meal, bingo, raffles, finished off with music from a local band who had everyone on the dance floor. The feedback has been tremendous. Our grateful thanks go to the Communities Mental Health and Well Being Fund via Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action for the funding which allowed us to create such a wonderful event.



# Spotlight on Support: Comrie Cancer Charity Shop

We're proud to celebrate one of our most generous supporters — the Comrie Cancer Charity Shop. Their recent and continuous donations to Asbestos Action have made a real difference, but the story behind the shop is even more inspiring: a community working together with compassion and commitment.

## A Legacy of Local Spirit

The shop has been part of Comrie since May 1978, founded by Dave and Jessie Robertson. What began with Dave's bingo nights soon grew into the Comrie Cancer Club, dedicated to supporting cancer care and research across Scotland. As Dave once said, "*We decided on cancer as a charity because when you look at it, it's as common as the cold — just about every family has been affected.*" That belief still guides the shop nearly 50 years later.

After Dave's passing, Bobby and Margaret Comrie, carried the torch, while Jessie continued volunteering despite ill health. Her son, Davie, now serves on the committee, keeping the family's legacy alive.

## Powered by Volunteers

The shop is entirely volunteer-run. A committee of 12 and more than 30 helpers keep it open six days a week, offering not just bargains but a welcoming space to connect. Volunteers handle everything from pricing and cleaning to greeting customers, and many locals return simply to see familiar faces. The ethos is simple: no paid staff, no gimmicks — just people giving freely of their time.

## Making a Difference

Located at 7 Dunira Street, the shop raises funds through donated goods — clothing, books, bric-a-brac, even discontinued paint from a Stirling Crown shop. Every month, proceeds go to Scottish hospitals, hospices, research organisations, and local charities. In 2024 alone, £89,000 was donated to 27 cancer-related causes. Since 1989,



the shop has raised an incredible £1,597,875 and counting. Monthly Facebook updates keep the community informed about donations and beneficiaries.

To manage the volume of goods, the shop also uses two huts at Cultybraggan Camp: Hut 43 for receiving donations and Hut 61 as a seasonal sales space. Items that can't be sold are recycled or sent to Gambia, ensuring minimal waste. Excess books are recycled, sold online, or donated — with some delivered to Ninewells Hospital to comfort patients.

## A Community Pillar

The shop is woven into village life. Locals and visitors alike flock to browse and support. During Comrie Fortnight, it stays open late to help residents find costumes and props for the much-loved Pram Derby. Their commitment extends beyond fundraising: for Action Mesothelioma Day, the shop dressed its windows in blue, a touching gesture of solidarity.

## Challenges and Hope

Like many charities, the shop faces challenges such as rising costs and seasonal slowdowns.

Yet their spirit remains strong. Plans are underway to expand use of the camp huts and possibly open on Sundays during winter. Volunteers are motivated by the gratitude they receive from the community. As one shared, "It's so lovely when people realise you're part of the shop committee and thank you for all you do for the village."

## Thank you, Comrie Cancer Shop

We at Asbestos Action are deeply grateful for the Comrie Cancer Charity Shop's generosity. Their story is a heartwarming example of what a community can achieve when united by purpose.

If you're ever in Comrie, stop by the shop or Hut 61 — you'll find more than bargains. You'll find a community in action.



# Creepy blast from the past

Vintage asbestos adverts provide a fascinating glimpse into the past, reflecting the trends and beliefs of their time. While some are charming or amusing, others are unsettling, especially when they promote harmful practices.

Here are a few examples of the strange and dangerous world of vintage asbestos adverts. Incredibly these ads not only glorified asbestos but often gave advice that jeopardized lives.

## Check these out...

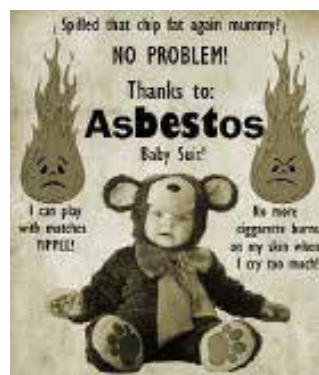


This ad promoted asbestos pads to protect dining tables from scratches. Imagine eating off a piece of asbestos—a product now known to be a serious health hazard.



In 1954, Kent cigarettes advertised their Micronite filters, which shockingly contained 20% crocidolite asbestos. These filters

aimed to slow cigarette burning but inadvertently exposed smokers to toxic fibres.



I have left the best to last - an ad promoting asbestos baby suits. Even at the time, it's hard to imagine how this didn't outrage parents. Wrapping babies in such a hazardous material is unthinkable today.

While these vintage ads might seem absurd or darkly amusing now, they had devastating consequences. Companies marketed asbestos without disclosing its dangers, and consumers unknowingly trusted these products.

The lack of safety information led to widespread exposure, which resulted in severe health complications for countless individuals. Diseases like mesothelioma, asbestosis, and lung cancer are direct outcomes of this negligence.

So in conclusion these ads serve as a historical lesson about the dangers of prioritizing profits over public health.

# A Journey Together - poem by Aileen

*As I close this chapter, and bid adieu,  
I reflect on the journey I've shared with you.  
To clients, colleagues, and friends so dear,  
Your kindness and wisdom brought joy each year.  
To clients who trusted, through thick and thin  
Your faith in my work helped me begin  
Each claim, each award, a story we wrote,  
Your success was the melody, my work the notes.*

*To colleagues who stood by, day after day,  
Through challenges, laughter, and the fray.  
Together we built, we learned, we grew,  
I'll treasure the memories I made with you.*

*To the professionals I've met along the way,  
Your wisdom and guidance lit up each day.  
The lessons you taught, the kindness you showed,  
Will light my journey as I walk new roads.*

*So, here's not goodbye, but a heartfelt "thank you,"  
For the trust, the support, and all that we grew.  
May your days be bright, your dreams take flight,  
As I embrace early (!!) retirement's golden light.*

With gratitude and big thanks to Dianne – a privilege to work alongside you once again – and as it's the season, a truly inspiring 'shepherdess of her flock'. Asbestos Action will forever be a part of me now – it got under my skin!

To All – have a Blessed & Merry Christmas and 2026 (and the world) awaits – I for one am stepping into it!

Aileen



## Word Search

### Just Dust? Not!

G	D	H	S	S	R	G	O	T	U	R	P	S
U	L	L	S	S	U	N	I	N	D	E	L	L
U	S	O	U	E	S	I	A	T	U	M	J	E
S	E	U	B	S	B	R	H	S	S	E	U	U
E	E	S	P	A	L	R	A	R	T	S	S	R
R	C	E	L	C	L	A	N	O	C	T	A	L
E	L	T	S	U	A	C	S	T	L	T	I	L
R	H	C	R	A	E	S	E	R	O	H	C	P
C	H	A	R	I	T	I	E	S	U	E	E	L
R	E	X	P	O	S	U	R	E	D	L	H	A
A	L	A	S	B	E	S	T	O	S	I	Q	C
I	N	S	U	L	A	T	O	N	O	E	U	Y
R	T	H	I	S	T	O	R	Y	Y	M	Y	E
M	O	N	K	E	Y	D	U	N	G	A	E	S

LATENCY  
DUST CLOUDS  
CHARITIES  
GLOBAL  
ASBESTOSIS  
PLEURAL PLAQUES  
RESEARCH  
MESOTHELIOMA  
SCARRING  
INSULATION  
JUSTICE  
EXPOSURE  
HISTORY  
MONKEY DUNG



Asbestos ACTION

# How you can help - donations:

## How to donate

- Complete the **form below** and send cheque to "Asbestos Action"
- JustGiving - [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com)
- **Standing order** (contact us for information)
- **Bank transfer** (contact us for information)

## Your details

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

TELEPHONE:

EMAIL:

## Donation amount - I wish to donate (please tick):

£10     £20     £30

OTHER £:

## GIFT AID – important (please tick):

### Boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have in the past four years, to Asbestos Action. I understand that I must pay an equal amount of UK income tax at least equal to the tax that Asbestos Action will claim in my donations in each year (*currently 25p for every £1*).



SIGNATURE:

DATE:

## About Asbestos Action

Asbestos Action is a charity that relies almost entirely on donations from appreciative sufferers and their families.

The charity was founded in 2002 by a small group of sufferers to assist those diagnosed with an asbestos-related condition.

We are committed to helping anyone affected by an asbestos-related condition, from supporting sufferers and their families after diagnosis to home visits to help fill in complicated benefits forms.

With a small staff of four the charity punches well above its weight in providing this emotional and practical support.

You're the reason we can keep providing our vital service, so no one has to face asbestos-related disease alone.

Donating can help us to support more sufferers and their families who have been affected through no fault of their own.

## Contact details

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DD1 4QB

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W: [www.asbestosaction.org.uk](http://www.asbestosaction.org.uk)

Asbestos-Action