Benefits and compensation

– options for Armed Forces patients

Mesothelioma is considered an industrial disease resulting in potential benefit and compensation entitlements not relevant in other cancers.

You should not be put off if you have not claimed benefits before. You have a legal entitlement to some of these benefits, although potential payouts may differ based on where and when asbestos exposure occurred and your length of service.

For everyone affected by mesothelioma, the benefit and compensation claims process can feel overwhelming and challenging.

For Armed Forces personnel and veterans, there is an added layer of options to consider and explore.

Until December 2015, serving and former Armed Forces personnel who had been exposed to asbestos prior to 1987 were not entitled to seek redress from the MOD under the Crown Immunity indemnity.

This policy highlighted the inequities between Armed Forces personnel and their civilian counterparts.

Following an active lobbying campaign by a partnership of organisations including the Asbestos Victims Support Group Forum and the Royal British Legion, and supported by Mesothelioma UK, the law was changed to grant Armed Forces personnel the ability to access either a tax-free lump sum or a traditional weekly War Pension. Attendance Allowances and Blue Badges can also be applied for.

Dual exposure

For those exposed to asbestos outside of any Armed Force service there are a number of civilian benefits, state and civil compensation options to consider.

It is not unusual for an individual to have been exposed during their Armed Forces service and also outside of that whilst working in a civilian job. This is termed 'dual exposure'.

Dual exposure means the individual may be entitled to benefit and compensation options through both the Armed Forces (Veterans UK) and civilian routes.

Mesothelioma UK works very closely with Veterans UK. Veterans UK is the part of the Ministry of Defence responsible for providing assistance on many issues including benefits, housing and welfare.

Veterans UK and Mesothelioma UK ensure that those individuals living with mesothelioma, who are seeking benefit and compensation advice, receive personalised information focused on securing the most appropriate conclusion for their circumstances.

Contact

If you're a serving member of the Armed Forces, a veteran, mesothelioma patient, family member or carer, a member of an Armed Forces partner organisation or other party interested about finding out more about how Mesothelioma UK is supporting our Armed Forces, the treatments and care available, or for advice on benefits/compensation claims, please contact Mesothelioma UK at:

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