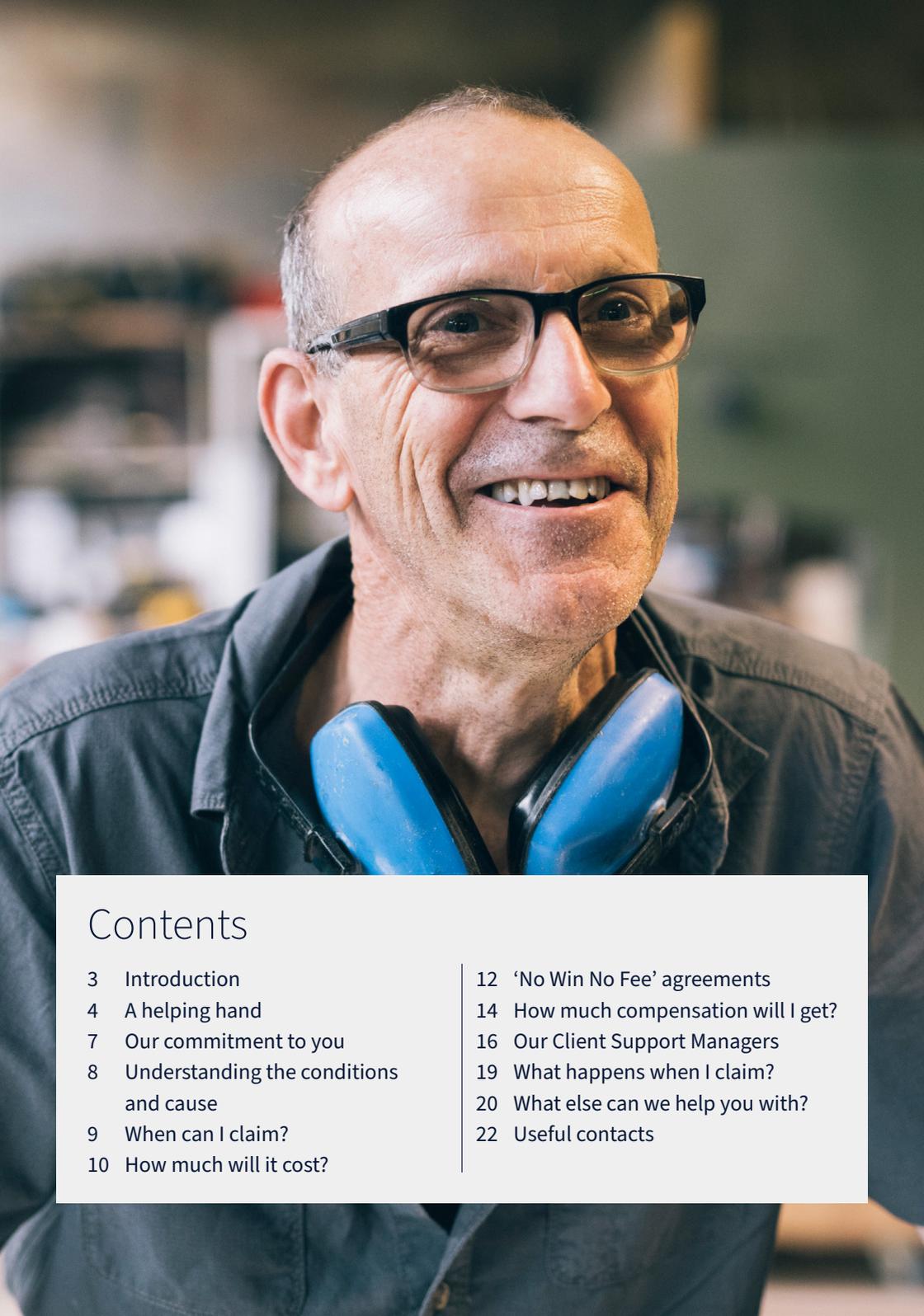




Supporting you through
pleural thickening and
asbestosis

IM, irwinmitchell



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If you or a loved on has been diagnosed with a benign asbestos-related condition, such as pleural thickening or asbestosis, we understand what you're going through and are here to help you every step of the way.

Both asbestosis and pleural thickening are asbestos-related conditions that develop due to direct asbestos exposure, sometimes causing significant respiratory difficulties.

Many of our clients are diagnosed with these conditions several decades after being exposed to asbestos at work. The company or organisation you worked for may not be operating anymore, but it may still be possible for you to make a claim.

We'll investigate your case to find out who was at fault, and work to get the justice you deserve. We'll make sure you receive the best possible medical care and support – now and in the future, whatever it may hold.

“

They made sure our future was secure. They did all this while being professional, kind and considerate at all times.

Jennifer
5* Trustpilot review



This information relates to the law and procedures in England and Wales. Please contact us if you need advice about the law and procedure in other legal jurisdictions.

0800 023 2233

A helping hand

We're one of the largest and most experienced law firms in the country. Every year we recover substantial damages for people diagnosed with asbestos-related diseases.

Figures from the Health and Safety Executive indicate that each year approximately 700 people are diagnosed with asbestosis and approximately 450 people are diagnosed with pleural thickening caused by exposure to asbestos dust at work. Only a small proportion of these diagnoses result in a civil claim for compensation, as many sufferers are unaware that their condition may have been caused by their exposure to asbestos dust at work.

This is where we can help. Our reputation for getting people the justice they deserve is second to none.

With decades of experience working with asbestos-related disease sufferers and their families, our experts appreciate what you're going through and know exactly what needs to be done to help you get the compensation you deserve.

Employing many of the country's finest personal injury specialists, our highly specialised team combines powerful legal arguments with care and consideration, ensuring the best possible outcome for you.

Our friendly professional service includes:

An early investigation to find out how and why your diagnosis has happened

Early compensation payments where possible, to pay for private healthcare, rehabilitation and bills if you can't work

Expert advice on state benefits, employment rights and other financial issues

Additional support, should you need it, such as financial planning, Personal Injury Trusts, Wills advice and Power of Attorney.





Our commitment to you

Seeing the physical and mental effects that a diagnosis of asbestos-related disease has on our clients is always very difficult. This is one of the reasons why we campaign for research to improve the quality of treatment available to anyone affected by the illness.

We campaign alongside the Asbestos Victims Support Group Forum UK and the medical profession for new and improved treatments to be made available on the NHS.

Our specialists are happy to discuss anything from your potential case to our campaigns for better care.

Understanding the conditions and cause

Exposure to asbestos can cause both benign and malignant diseases. In clinic, doctors sometimes struggle to establish the predominant cause of a benign asbestos-related disease but we engage medical and other experts to help us in that process.

Benign diseases:

Pleural thickening

The lining of the lung (the pleura) can thicken after a pleural effusion, which in turn can be caused by past asbestos exposure. The pleura can also thicken if asbestos causes extensive calcium build up there. Pleural thickening encases the lung like a corset, restricting expansion of the lung, and causing shortness of breath.

Asbestosis

In circumstances where significant exposure to asbestos has occurred, the lung tissue can develop scarring. This causes the lung tissue to contract and it reduces the amount of oxygen within the lung's airspaces that is transferred to the bloodstream.

Pleural plaques

Pleural plaques are small areas of scarring on the pleura which show as white marks on chest x-rays. Unless extensive, this condition doesn't cause breathlessness.

Malignant diseases:

Mesothelioma

In some cases small levels of exposure can cause a malignancy of the pleura. The cause of this specific type of malignancy is often exposure to asbestos.

Lung cancer

Cancers of the lung tissue have various causes. Generally, there will have been significant exposure to asbestos for this to be the cause of lung cancer, regardless of whether or not they were a smoker. Lung cancer is closely associated with those who also have asbestosis.

When can I claim?

You have to be able to demonstrate that your past exposure to asbestos caused your illness to claim successfully. Our experienced team will help you with this.

Establishing a link

Pleural thickening can be caused by low levels of exposure to asbestos. It can develop quite a short time after exposure, although it may take many years before symptoms first appear.

In contrast, asbestosis usually affects people who've had a history of heavy exposure to asbestos during their career.

Examples of the sorts of career histories of asbestos exposure which may give rise to asbestosis include:

- One year's very heavy exposure to asbestos dust through spraying, insulation or demolition
- Significant moderate exposure to asbestos dust regularly over a period of 5 - 10 years.

Time limits

The time limit for claims is usually three years from the date you first suspected that your illness may have been caused by exposure to asbestos dust.

If a loved one has died as a result of an asbestos-related disease, it may still be possible to make a claim against the person or company suspected to have contributed to their disease. The time limit for this is usually three years from the date they passed away.

How much will it cost?

Contacting us for initial advice on your claim costs you nothing. If you do go on to pursue a claim with us, we'll review all the options for funding it.

Funding your case:

Conditional fee agreement – commonly known as a 'No Win No Fee' agreement*

Legal expenses insurance – you may have legal expenses cover to help with any legal costs as part of your household or car insurance

Trade union – if you're a member of a trade union, they may provide assistance for some legal issues.

Even if you do have access to legal expenses insurance, public funding or trade union assistance, your best option may still be a 'No Win No Fee' agreement.



Nothing was too much trouble for my lawyers. They took me through every stage of the process, explaining any legal terms clearly and sympathetically, and kept me up-to-date throughout.

Steph
5* Trustpilot review

* To make a No Win No Fee claim, you need to enter into an agreement that's linked to a suitable insurance policy. We'll explain this in more detail before we start your claim.



‘No Win No Fee’ agreements

If we recommend that a ‘No Win No Fee’ agreement* is your best option, you can be assured that there’s no financial risk to you if you’re unsuccessful.

If you win:

Your opponent will pay the majority of our basic legal costs and disbursements (e.g. court fees, medical reports)

Any costs not payable by your opponent will include the premium for your insurance policy to protect you fully against any risk of legal costs

You won’t have to pay a penny out of your own pocket until your claim has successfully come to an end and then any of the costs not paid by your opponent will be deducted from any compensation awarded to you

If any disbursements can’t be recovered from your opponent these will be covered by your insurance policy

To help you with your legal costs, the government has provided a 10% increase in the amount awarded to you for your pain, suffering and loss of amenity.

If you lose:

We can promise you there’s no financial risk to you if your claim is unsuccessful*

There will be no charge to you

You’ll be fully covered by your insurance policy for any disbursements

You’ll be fully protected by your insurance policy from any of your opponent’s legal costs.

We’ll do everything we can to protect and support you to proceed with your claim and we’ll keep you updated at all times. Remember, there’s absolutely no financial risk to you or your family if you’re unsuccessful.

* To make a No Win No Fee claim, you need to enter into an agreement that’s linked to a suitable insurance policy. We’ll explain this in more detail before we start your claim.

How much compensation will I get?

The amount of compensation you receive depends on several aspects. This includes the severity of your illness and how it's affected your life, how much money you've lost or will lose as a consequence, and whether you'll need extra support in the future.

Individually assessed

We'll advise you at the outset on how your opponent's insurers and the courts approach the assessment of compensation, and how that will apply to your case. It's important to bear in mind that everyone is different, and the consequences of the same injury or illness will vary from person to person.

Keeping you informed

As we learn more about you and your circumstances, we'll be able to provide you with a more accurate idea of the financial value of your claim. We'll do everything we can to recover the maximum amount of compensation available to you. We'll also advise on the best payment terms to suit your immediate and ongoing needs.

As well as securing financial compensation, we'll help you and your family with the practical issues and day-to-day impact of your injury, as well as helping you access the best medical care and rehabilitation.



Our Client Support Managers

Our Client Support Managers (CSMs) are qualified and experienced health and social care professionals, with extensive experience in palliative care, mental health, adult social work, and occupational therapy.



Our Client Support Managers, Michaela (left) and Jacquie (right) with the head of our Asbestos-Related Disease team, Adrian Budgen (centre).

Our CSMs are Michaela Morris and Jacquie Bates, who split their services across the North and South of the UK. They're on hand for you and your loved ones when you're not sure where to turn.

While our legal experts manage your case, either Michaela or Jacquie will work with you to assess what support you need now and in the future. This service is available at no extra cost.

They can help you navigate statutory care and support services, local and related charities, and welfare benefits. They'll guide you through conversations about your future care and wishes, ensuring that those closest to you are supported too.

They'll also help you cope with the impact of your illness, so you can continue doing the things that are important to you.

How Jacquie supported our client

Our client John was referred to Jacquie after he was diagnosed with mesothelioma. Sadly, he'd been mugged and was frightened to be on his own. He came home from hospital in pain, distressed and wanting to move into a care home. Jacquie helped John to restore his confidence and regain his independence.



Scan to learn more about our CSMs and John's story.



What happens when I claim?

Once you've instructed us we'll investigate your case thoroughly by gathering witness statements and other relevant details.

Review

Once your witness statements, medical records and hospital background documents have been collated, we instruct a medical expert to review them and give their opinion on the cause of your illness.

Court settlements

Most cases are settled before they go to trial. But if your case is one of the few that's to be decided by a judge, it's perfectly normal and we'll be there to help you every step of the way.

After this has happened your solicitor is likely to arrange a meeting with you and the relevant experts to discuss the available information. We'll assess the prospects of the claim being successful and advise you on the next steps in your case.

What else can we help you with?

Whether it's business or personal we understand that everyone's situation is different.

If you need legal advice or support with financial planning, we're here to offer expert advice tailored to your circumstances, so you can focus on what really matters.

We're here to help you with:

- Buying or selling a house
- Court of Protection
- Divorce, children and family matters
- Planning disputes
- Financial planning and wealth management*
- Support with your business and employment issues
- Social, education and healthcare provisions
- Tax and trusts
- Welfare and healthcare matters
- Wills

* Financial planning and wealth management services are provided by IM Asset Management Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Its Financial Services Register Firm Reference Number is 402770.



Contact us:

📞 0800 023 2233

💻 [irwinmitchell.com](https://www.irwinmitchell.com)

Useful contacts

We have close relationships with organisations and charities that can provide extra support when you need it most.

Asbestos Victims Support Group Forum

Working together to give a voice to asbestos victims.

34 Glumangate
Chesterfield
S40 1TX

☎ 0808 278 2515

✉ forum.asbestos@gmail.com

🌐 asbestosforum.org.uk

Asthma + Lung UK

Promotes lung health and supports those affected by lung disease.

The White Chapel Building
10 Whitechapel High Street
London
E1 8QS

☎ 0300 222 5800

✉ helpline@asthmaandlung.org.uk

🌐 asthmaandlung.org.uk

June Hancock Mesothelioma Research Fund

Raises funds for research and the care of people with mesothelioma.

The June Hancock Mesothelioma
Research Fund
c/o Riverside East
2 Millsands
Sheffield
S3 8DT

☎ 0114 247 4420

✉ info@junehancockfund.org

🌐 junehancockfund.org

Macmillan Cancer Support

Provides physical, emotional and financial support to those affected by cancer.

89 Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7UQ

☎ 0808 8080 000

🌐 macmillan.org.uk

Mesothelioma UK

Provides mesothelioma information, support and education, while improving care and treatment for those affected by this cancer.

235 Loughborough Road
Mountsorrel
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE12 7AS

☎ 0800 1692 409

✉ info@mesothelioma.uk.com

🌐 mesothelioma.uk.com

Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation

From getting diagnosed to having treatment for lung cancer, they're here to help you make sense of your diagnosis and support you through it.

Cotton Exchange Building
Old Hall Street
Liverpool
L3 9LQ

☎ 0333 323 7200

🌐 roycastle.org

 0800 023 2233

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