

FIGHTING ASBESTOS CLAIMS *for you*

Thompsons – All Party Parliamentary Group on Asbestos

In April 2026, Thompsons Solicitors co-hosted a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Occupational Safety and Health at the House of Commons, bringing together MPs, clinicians, trade unions, charities and legal experts to underline the urgent need for action on asbestos.

Led on behalf of Thompsons by **National Head of Asbestos, Amanda Jones**, discussions focused on improving early diagnosis and specialist care for people living with mesothelioma, and on moving beyond ‘management in place’ towards a long-term, risk-based programme of asbestos removal—starting with the high public buildings such as schools and hospitals.

Speakers included **Professor Nicholas Maskell, Consultant Respiratory Physician and Chair of Mesothelioma UK**; **Michael Phillips, Chair of the TUC’s Asbestos Committee**; **Liz Darlison CEO of Mesothelioma UK**; **Jerry Hague from the Asbestos Victims Support Groups**.

The Group heard from former firefighter, mesothelioma sufferer and Thompson client **Mike Harding**, whose moving story served as a stark reminder of the real, lifelong consequences of asbestos exposure.

Mesothelioma UK and Thompsons, along with our partners in the TUC’s **“Time to Get Rid of It”** campaign are calling for an urgent change in national strategy when it comes to asbestos management. Simply “managing asbestos in place” is failing and what is needed is a national asbestos removal plan, beginning with the highest-risk buildings such as schools and hospitals, in order to protect workers and the wider public from on-going asbestos exposure.

Over the last 12 months, Thompsons Solicitors have secured damages of **over £40 million** for victims of asbestos related disease.



All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) at the House of Commons

Our call for stronger, more ambitious reforms reflects our belief that every worker has the right to a safe workplace, and that regulators and government must act in the interests of people, not convenience.

With **more than 50 years’** experience representing asbestos victims and their families, Thompsons continues to combine specialist legal expertise with campaigning alongside organisations including Trade Union Congress and patient support groups to push for safer workplaces and lasting change.

Thompsons – Fighting for Justice for Firefighters

After more than 30 years protecting the public, retired firefighter **Mike Harding** was diagnosed with mesothelioma, caused by decades of asbestos exposure during training, call-outs and fire investigations.

As highlighted in recent Daily Mail coverage, firefighters were routinely put in harm's way without asbestos awareness training or proper protective equipment, with Mike just one of **over 100 firefighters** bringing asbestos-related claims in the last decade.

Mike first developed symptoms of mesothelioma in May 2024 while on holiday, experiencing sudden breathlessness. After collapsing fluid was drained from his lungs, further investigations at Guy's Hospital confirmed he had epithelioid mesothelioma.

Determined to understand how he had been exposed, Mike instructed Thompsons Solicitors.

Thompsons were able to trace the source of his asbestos exposure to decades of attending fires in commercial, industrial and residential properties across London, many of which contained asbestos-lagged pipes, ceilings, wall panels and roofing.

Thompsons were able to secure a settlement for Mike from his former employer, including funding for private immunotherapy to support his ongoing treatment, after it admitted that he had been repeatedly exposed to asbestos throughout his career—a risk he could not have reasonably avoided.



Mike Harding pictured with Laura Morrison, Partner and Asbestos Lead in London and the South East at Thompsons.

Mike however wishes to continue to raise awareness of the risks facing firefighters. Speaking to the Daily Mail, he said:

“Nobody ever told us to watch out for asbestos because it was dangerous. We simply didn't know the risks.

What worries me is that firefighters are still damping down fires and clearing debris without using respirators... I see it all the time, and it worries me. It's still happening almost 20 years after I retired.”

Thompsons are committed to the fight to protect workers from asbestos still present in so many public and private buildings and is calling for urgent measures to protect firefighters from asbestos exposure. [Read more about Mike's story on our website.](#)

HSE crackdown on engineered stone: what it means for workers

The Health and Safety Executive's latest action on engineered stone highlights the serious risks of silica dust exposure. For too long, cutting and polishing high-silica materials has been treated as routine, despite the danger. Silicosis is a serious, irreversible and potentially fatal lung disease, but it is preventable with the right controls.

New guidance makes clear that dry cutting is unacceptable. Employers must use safer methods, including water suppression, effective dust control, suitable respiratory protective equipment and health surveillance. Backed by over 1,000 inspections, this sends a clear message that these are legal duties, not optional measures.

Workers may question whether proper protections were in place, including safe systems of work, equipment and health checks. Exposure can lead to long-term health issues affecting both workers and their families.

Thompsons Solicitors supports those affected by industrial disease. Early advice can help secure compensation, access to treatment and ensure lessons are learned to protect others. Cases involving silica dust exposure are supported by specialists including **Head of Personal Injury, Phil Liptrot**.

For advice or support, you can contact **Principal Lawyer, Daniel Poet** on 0208 596 7704.

British Thoracic Oncology Group Conference – March 2026

Thompsons' **Amanda Jones, Emma Draper, and Laura Morrison** attended the BTOG (British Thoracic Oncology Group) conference this March — a fantastic opportunity for learning, networking and catching up with colleagues across the thoracic oncology community.

Thompsons are proud to support events that bring clinicians, researchers and professionals together to share knowledge and ultimately improve patient outcomes and continue the fight against asbestos related disease.

Thompsons Solicitors also offer educational grants for healthcare professionals who wish to attend events and develop their skills to better support victims of asbestos. For details of the scheme and how to apply, please contact AmandaJones@thompsons.law



Emma Draper, Amanda Jones and Laura Morrison

Thompsons Represent Claimant in Rare Testicular Mesothelioma Case

In a significant asbestos-related settlement, Thompsons Solicitors secured compensation and private life-extending treatment for a former Ford Motor Company worker who developed a rare form of mesothelioma, marking an important outcome for asbestos claimants with uncommon diagnoses.

The claimant, a 72-year-old man from Liverpool, was diagnosed in 2021 with malignant mesothelioma of the tunica vaginalis, a rare form of the disease affecting the lining of the testicle. This type of mesothelioma is exceptionally uncommon, with only a handful of reported cases in the UK. On diagnosis, his treating clinicians gave a prognosis of between six and 18 months.

With the support of **Unite the Union and Merseyside Asbestos Victim Support Group (MAVSG)**, Thompsons acted quickly to secure agreement from Ford to fund vital treatment not available on the NHS. Within weeks, the claimant commenced specialist therapy, offering the prospect of significantly extending his life expectancy and improving quality of life. This rapid intervention ensured continuity of care and avoided gaps in treatment while legal proceedings continued.

Negotiations followed, with a significant settlement achieved out of court. It remains one of very few reported settlements involving malignant mesothelioma of the testicle. This case was featured in APIL Focus magazine. **Read the full story on our website.**

History

For more than 50 years, Thompsons Solicitors has been at the forefront of asbestos litigation, representing workers and families affected by asbestos-related disease while campaigning for safer workplaces and stronger legal protections.

Thompsons brought the first successful asbestos case to the House of Lords in 1972—marking a significant milestone in the development of asbestos litigation in the UK. Since then, the firm has been involved in virtually every major asbestos test case, helping to shape the law on employer liability, causation and compensation.

Through this sustained litigation, Thompsons has helped shape modern asbestos law, ensuring that employers are held to account and that victim; can secure justice. Today, Thompsons continues this work, securing compensation and life-extending treatment for clients, including in complex and rare cases such as malignant mesothelioma of the tunica vaginalis.

With specialist asbestos lawyers based across our national network of 12 offices, and close partnerships with trade unions and asbestos support groups, Thompsons remains committed to delivering justice for those affected and driving forward the fight for prevention.

Thompsons Get Baking for Muffins for Meso

We were delighted to take part Muffins for Meso again, with colleagues turning their hands to baking in support of Mesothelioma UK.

There were some impressive creations, all helping to raise awareness and support a cause which means a great deal to our team.



For more than 50 years, Thompsons has been at the forefront of asbestos litigation because we combine specialist legal expertise with a deep commitment to our clients, campaigning for change and working alongside trade unions, clinicians and support groups. Our achievements are built on experience, innovation and an unwavering focus on securing justice and the best possible outcomes for those affected by asbestos disease.



Amanda Jones
– National Head
of Asbestos for
Thompsons Solicitors

If you know of anyone who has been diagnosed with an asbestos related condition – please contact our asbestos specialists at Thompsons Solicitors for advice.

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