

Welcome to the latest edition of our industrial disease newsletter. At Stephensons we have a dedicated team of solicitors who can help you to bring legal action if you are suffering from a disease or illness caused or made worse by your working environment. This issue includes:

- [Personalised mesothelioma treatment](#)
- [Our recently settled cases](#)
- [Our areas of specialism](#)
- [Why choose us?](#)
- [Our fundraising activities](#)



[Kate Sweeney](#)

Partner and Head of Personal Injury

[Email](#)

0333 344 4771

If you require further information about any of our services please visit [our website](#), [email us](#) or call **0333 344 4771**.

Personalised mesothelioma treatment trial opens in UK

The Mesothelioma Stratified Therapy (MiST) trial, which is taking place in Leicester, is a world's first trial into developing personalised treatment for those with mesothelioma. The trial opened on 29th January 2019.



What is mesothelioma?

Mesothelioma is a rare form of cancer caused by exposure to asbestos and can take many years to develop in a person. Once diagnosed, treatment is available to control the disease for as long as possible and keep symptoms under control. However there is currently no cure for the disease, making it a terminal illness.

MiST trial

The MiST trial aims to develop personalised medicine specifically tailored to the type of mesothelioma the person is suffering from. It is hoped that by matching new drugs to the individual's type of mesothelioma for the first time, it will accelerate advances in extending survival and quality of life for people with the aggressive form of cancer. Up until now, all mesothelioma sufferers have been treated using the same drug which is not working. Some individuals' mesothelioma is drug-

sensitive whereas others are resistant. It has become clear that a one-size-fits-all approach is no longer suitable.

The MiST clinical study involves three steps with four different types of therapies:

Stage 1 - biomarker testing and molecular profile analysis based on tissue sample. The result will be used to classify each patient into one of several different treatments.

Stage 2 - treatment type and its frequency will be delivered based on the specific molecular profile of each patient.

Stage 3 - genomic analysis of why a patient responded or didn't respond to treatment and what factors led to eventual drug resistance.

Depending on the individual's profile, the patient could receive all four treatments options. It is however expected that more treatments will be added as the trial progresses, depending on the genetic mutations found.

The trial has been funded by a £2.5million donation from the British Lung Foundation and is due to run up until 2022.

To qualify for the trial the individual must have an expected survival time of at least 12 weeks and have received at least one prior round of chemotherapy. For further information please visit the MiST website.

The trial is starting in Leicester but is expected to expand to multiple centres across the UK. Finding a cure for mesothelioma is a worldwide goal. If you or someone you love has been diagnosed with mesothelioma, you or your loved one could be entitled to compensation. Getting the right legal advice is vital, call our [specialist solicitors](#) on 0333 344 4771.

Our recently settled work-related illness cases

Raynaud's disease case

We recently settled a professional negligence claim for a local man who was a personal injury client of a Pemberton firm intervened by the SRA. He worked in a refrigerated food distribution warehouse and blamed the low temperatures for his condition which affected his hands and feet. The insurer's solicitors conceded breach of duty but not causation, as typically Raynaud's is only work-related if it involves the use of vibration tools or machinery. The client's previous solicitors failed to issue the claim before the three year limitation period expired.

The client instructed us to submit a claim to the firm's professional indemnity insurers for his loss of chance i.e. for missing out on the opportunity of continuing with his original industrial disease claim. We contacted the medical expert and asked if working in sub-freezing conditions could have brought

on our client's constitutional symptoms and he agreed with this. As a result, we were able to put a financial value to his loss of chance and a settlement was reached without having to resort to litigation.



Last month was Raynaud's awareness month. Read our blog to find out more about the disease, how to manage the symptoms and where you can get advice and support.

[Read our Raynaud's awareness blog](#)

Noise induced hearing loss claim

We have recently settled a noise induced hearing loss claim after many years spent trying to persuade the defendant's solicitors to budge from their weak denial on limitation grounds. Our client used to work as a machine operator at a wire mesh fencing manufacturer. The defendant's solicitors argued that because our client's hearing was tested at work, he was on notice that he was suffering from a hearing problem and so his claim was several years out of time.

Unluckily for them, we tracked down the occupational audiologist who confirmed the level of loss client had at the time was, in his words, "totally not noticeable." We maintained it was only in recent years that client started to suffer from a significant injury (because admittedly the level of noise-related damage involved was relatively small) when the effects of noise damage combined with his normal age-related losses.

Indeed, earlier in the case the defendant's solicitors also denied the claim on the basis the injury was negligible or *de minimis*, an argument often raised. In our view they were trying to have their cake and eat it by advancing both of these arguments, and we eventually managed to settle just before trial.

If you have a condition which you believe has been caused or made worse by your working conditions you may be eligible to receive compensation. To speak with one of our industrial disease experts call us on 0333 344 4771 or [email us](#), including your contact details, and a member of our team will contact you as soon as possible.

Our areas of specialism

Our industrial disease experts cover a wide range of work related illness claims. We can help you with the following:

[Asbestos compensation claims](#)

[Carpal tunnel syndrome claims](#)

[Hand arm vibration syndrome claims](#)

[Industrial deafness and hearing loss claims](#)

[Mesothelioma claims](#)

[Occupational asthma claims](#)

[Power tool injury claims](#)

[Repetitive strain injury claims](#)

[Work related lung disease claims](#)

[Work related skin disease claims](#)

As you may already be aware, in accident claims, claimants have three years from the date of the accident to issue proceedings at court. This is known as the limitation period. In disease claims, however, this three year period starts to run from the date the symptoms first became significant and were associated with work. Stephenson's are well-placed to advise you on the key limitation issues that can arise as they vary on a case by case basis.

Why choose us?

Our industrial disease solicitors have a wealth of experience in securing compensation for those suffering from a work related illness. Our clients have rated us five out of five on trustpilot. Here is what they say about us:



Our client, Alan Woodfinden shares his experience in this video following a successful claim for asbestosis. He talks about how he found working with the industrial disease specialists at Stephenson's to pursue a claim for compensation.

Specialist solicitor, Clare Gammond, talks about the process of making a claim for compensation following the diagnosis of an industrial disease as well as sharing her pride at being able to help people like Alan achieve justice and a successful outcome.



Since occupational diseases can vary so greatly, in addition to their causes, compensation claims are equally diverse but our highly skilled specialist solicitors are perfectly placed to provide the legal advice required in order to secure compensation. Stephenson's is one of the largest firms of its kind and boasts years of combined experience in occupational illness claims. Call us on 0333 344 4771 to speak with one of our specialists.

Our recent fundraising activities

Our industrial disease specialists are always busy working on claims in the office but often find time to organise and be involved in charitable activities to help support various charities related to their work. Here's what they have been up to since the last newsletter:

The Great Legal Bake



On March 1st our personal injury team organised a bake sale to raise money for The Great Legal Bake in aid of [The Access to Justice Foundation](#). We managed to raise almost £100 which will go towards improving access to justice for the most vulnerable in society. The charity do this by raising funds and distributing them to organisations that support those who need legal help but cannot afford it.

I Love Claims Day

On 14th February the personal injury team held a fundraising day in aid of [Rainbow Trust's Children's Charity](#) as part of I Love Claims Day. We held a bake sale, various games throughout the day and a tombola to raise money for the charity. We raised £382 on the day and additional money was donated to the same cause with the firm wide dress down day the following day. The combined total was a fantastic £583.91.



Connect with Stephensons on social media...

