

Consultation Response:

**PROPOSED BILL TO
REVERSE HOUSE OF
LORDS JUDGEMENT IN**

**Johnston v NEI
International Combustion
Ltd**

**Partial Regulatory Impact
Assessment**

April 2008

Please find below my response to the above consultation by the Scottish Government. The views contained within this response are my own and do not necessarily reflect the position of Renfrewshire Council or my role as a councillor within that authority.

I welcome the introduction of this bill and its extension to cover not only pleural plaques but also asymptomatic pleural thickening and asymptomatic asbestosis.

As highlighted in the consultation document, since the 1980's those who have been negligently exposed to asbestos and have developed the diseases mentioned above have had the right to seek compensation from their former employers.

The House of Lords judgement is an infringement on the rights of ordinary workers seeking recompense for the harm caused by negligent employers. Those who have contracted these diseases have contributed to the Scottish economy and it would be harsh if this judgement was allowed to stand.

The consultation paper, in paragraphs 10 and 11, highlighted the concerns of those who contract these asbestos related diseases.

I agree wholeheartedly with the final sentence of paragraph 20, to stand by and do nothing – as proposed by the UK Government – is morally reprehensible.

In conclusion, the Scottish Government is to be commended for taking swift and decisive action and I support their plans to bring forward this bill and to extend its remit to cover related asbestos diseases other than simply pleural plaques.

For Further Information please contact:

Councillor Kenny MacLaren
2 Avondale Drive
Paisley PA1 3TT

kenny.maclaren@ntlworld.com