

3rd October 1977

J. Peto, Esq.,
University of Oxford,
Department of Health & Social Security,
Cancer Epidemiology and Clinical Trials Unit,
9 Keble Road,
Oxford.

Dear Mr. Peto,

Many thanks for your letter and for the enclosed copy of your draft paper based upon your submission to the Government Advisory Committee on Asbestos.

As you indicate, I do have serious reservations about estimates of earlier dust levels in TMA, particularly in the period prior to 1961. I would, in fact, describe the figures assigned to 1951-1961 as pure guesses in fibre terms. I am also concerned that during this latter period many processes were phased out because of their dustiness and for which there are no dust records whatsoever.

As far as your paper is concerned, there is certainly no objection from TMA to your publishing it in the British Journal of Industrial Medicine or other suitable vehicle. There are one or two minor changes which I or my colleagues would like to suggest to you, which are as follows:-

- (a) On page 1, second paragraph, it is not true that it was believed in 1968 that crepitations would not appear or progress after exposure ceased. As you correctly say in your first paragraph, examination was of currently employed asbestos workers, so that the analysis was done in such a way that only people still exposed on the 30th June 1968 were included. It is undoubtedly a pity that people who had retired or left were not included, but the fact is they weren't, probably because of the difficulty of tracing rather than any assumption being made about the appearance or progress of crepitations after the cessation of exposure.
- (b) On page 3, the paragraph on the Enterline and McDonald studies seems to imply that there is a known relationship between mpcf and fibres/ml .