

Andy Burnham MP

Working Hard for the Leigh area

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Press release

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For immediate use

Over £22 million for miners in the Leigh area.

Andy Burnham MP has welcomed news that over £22 million of compensation has been paid to former miners suffering from respiratory diseases and Vibration White Finger (hand arm vibration syndrome, etc).

The payouts represent the biggest personal injury scheme in British legal history with a total national compensation figure of £2.8billion at 30th June 2006.

Many miners suffered from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases (COPD) such as Bronchitis, Emphysema and Asthma as well as Vibration White Finger and Carpal Tunnel Syndrome which collectively are known as Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS).

Andy Burnham MP has campaigned tirelessly over the past few years to ensure that Leigh's brave miners received their compensation and where the miner had sadly died, their families.

Andy Burnham MP said:

"The contribution to the country came at a severe cost to the health of many miners who suffered with respiratory and other health problems. I am pleased to hear that over £22 million has now been paid to former miners in the borough.

"I welcome the fact over 5,000 miners and their families have made a claim for compensation. But local miners and their families are angry that the previous Tory government went to court to stop these claims being agreed.

"I am proud that it has taken a Labour Government to make sure that that miners and their families received justice."

Andy Burnham said that he would continue to fight tooth and nail to ensure that all miners and their families in the Wigan Borough who are entitled to this compensation receive it.