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# OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES- INDUSTRIAL INJURIES ADVISORY COUNCIL TO REVIEW PROVISIONS FOR COMPENSATION

The Industrial Injuries Advisory Council has been asked by Mr. David Ennals, the Secretary of State for Social Services, to consider, in the light of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Civil Liability and Compensation for Personal Injury:

- a. whether any changes should be made in the terms of the list of prescribed industrial diseases under the Social Security industrial injuries scheme, and
- b. whether industrial injuries benefits should be made available to any individual who can show that his disease is occupational in origin and a particular risk of his occupation.

The Council will be considering *firstly* the question of claims based on individual proof. A system of individual proof would enable some workers to claim benefits successfully who are at present unable to do so because the diseases concerned are not included in the schedule of prescribed diseases. The Council would welcome views on whether – and how – a system of individual proof might be operated successfully in conjunction with the existing scheme. Evidence would also be welcomed about any diseases and occupations which are not at present scheduled but which might be covered under an individual proof system.

The Schedule of prescribed industrial diseases lists 47 different diseases (including non-accidental injuries)

and the occupations to which they apply. A disease may be prescribed if it can be regarded as a *risk of occupation* and not a risk common to everyone, and if the occupational link can be established in particular cases or presumed with reasonable certainty.

The Council will be considering whether there are grounds for recommending that the description of any of the listed industrial diseases, or of the relevant occupations, should be amended in the light of experience and advances in knowledge. Special attention will be given to the possibility of simplifying the definitions of the prescribed diseases and of removing any restrictive conditions in them.

The Council has also been asked to take account of recommendations of the Commission of the European Economic Community and of the International Labour Organisation regarding occupational diseases. It will therefore examine the extent to which the arrangements for prescribed diseases meet those recommended for adoption as a minimum by the EEC and ILO.

An explanatory memorandum will be supplied on request to any person or organisation interested in providing evidence.

Enquiries and correspondence should be sent to the Secretary, Industrial Injuries Advisory Council, R1 Keysign House, 429 Oxford Street, London W1R 2HT, as soon as possible, and not later than 30 March 1979.

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