



Rt Hon Matt Hancock  
Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care,  
39 Victoria Street,  
London, SW1H 0EU

Dear Rt Hon Matt Hancock,

We are writing with regards to the health of retired miners in the context of this Covid-19 public health crisis.

We represent former mining towns and villages from across the UK, many with large, aging populations of miners. Many suffer from underlying health conditions due to their former occupation. Years of coal dust inhalation have left them with scarred and damaged lungs. As a result they are extremely vulnerable to Covid-19. This is a very serious issue, which we believe needs urgent action.

We have been contacted by former miners who share the same fear that if they die during the Covid-19 outbreak their death certificates will make no mention of their underlying health conditions. Miners and their families deserve compensation for the years of ill health brought on by their work down the pits. In the event of a tragic death attributed to Covid-19, it is essential that underlying industrial disease is also recorded on their death certificate. Without it grieving families will be unable to get the justice and support they need.

The Government has relaxed legislation on the completion of death certificates by medical professionals. We fear that this will impact the referrals of potential cases of death by industrial disease to coroners.

We are therefore writing to ask that the Government outline their plans to protect the wellbeing of miners and their families during this crisis. We would urge you to provide additional resources for services that support miners, in particular healthcare provision. Additional funding is needed for research into industrial diseases and their role in increasing susceptibility to Covid-19 infection.

Lastly, can we have your assurances that your Department will enact measures to ensure industrial diseases are considered in the event of an untimely death? Miners and their families deserve justice.

We look forward to receiving your response as a matter of urgency.

Kind regards,

Stephanie Peacock  
MP for Barnsley East

Nick Smith  
MP for Blaenau Gwent



Conor McGinn  
MP for St Helens North

Dan Jarvis  
MP for Barnsley Central

Wayne David  
MP for Caerphilly

Gerald Jones  
MP for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney

Yvette Cooper  
MP for Normanton, Pontefract and  
Castleford

Grahame Morris  
MP for Easington

Ian Lavery  
MP for Wansbeck

Mike Hill  
MP for Hartlepool

Yvonne Fovargue  
MP for Makerfield

Chris Bryant  
MP for Rhondda

Chris Elmore  
Member of Parliament for Ogmore

Kevin Brennan  
MP for Cardiff West

Christina Rees  
MP for Neath

Tonia Antoniazzi  
MP for Gower

Ruth Jones  
Newport West

Stephen Kinnock  
MP for Aberavon

Beth Winter  
MP for Cynon Valley

John Healey  
MP for Wentworth and Dearne