

The purpose of industrial injuries benefits

Delegates at the workshop were asked

“What is the fundamental purpose of industrial injuries benefits?”

Responses were reasonably uniform, with some differences around the “income replacement vs compensation” debate:

“Compensation”-type responses:

- “No fault” compensation for accidents and illness – eligibility should be open to a wide variety of circumstances
- Compensation for accident/disease at work.
- Providing compensation to those injured or contracting disease at work without the need to prove fault or go via courts
- No fault reparation for personal injury caused, on balance of probabilities, by occupation
- Compensatory, no blame payment for employees. Not means tested
Not an income replacement benefit (like ESA)
Not for extra costs of disability (like DLA / PIP)
- To compensate for injury sustained by no fault of their own at work
- Compensate those injured as a result of activities related to their employment
- Within a social security system which provides income support and benefit to help with the extra costs of disability (DLA,PIP,AA), to ensure people are compensated for loss of earnings and suffering from work-related illness and accidents.

Other responses / Mixed responses

- 1. System of no fault compensation for work-related acquired disabilities
- 2. Financial support (if needed beyond other disability benefits) to help replace workplace earnings.
- [To] provide additional support for people who have been injured or disabled in the course of employment to manage their condition and to improve their life experience
- IIDB should be paid to those having been injured at work, as for most it is a temporary period of losing income. For asbestos sufferers it is generally paid due to the condition not allowing them to continue with their work.
- To support those affected by a work-related injury or disease through compensation and allow them to continue living to the same standard prior to the incident
- Provided financial support to help individuals live with conditions/disease/impairments caused by work
- Replace lost earnings – maintain income to allow life to be lived in dignity