

Kirsty Williams AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-522  
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/00147/18

David John Rowlands AM  
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Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 25 January in respect of your discussions at the Petitions Committee meeting on 9 January; to which you attached correspondence from your petitioner, Mr Cenic Clement-Evans.

For ease of reference, I will address the issues you raise in the order in which they appear in your letter and that of Mr Cenic Clement-Evans.

### **Condition and Management of Asbestos in Welsh Schools**

As I indicated in my letter of 3 November, information about the presence of asbestos in schools throughout Wales and confirmation that asbestos management plans are in place forms part of our annual condition survey.

I am pleased to report that the vast majority of local authorities have confirmed that those schools in their estate with asbestos present also have an asbestos management plan in place. My officials are currently working with local authorities to ensure that this information is current and that any gaps in the information are addressed.

At present I have no plans for my officials to share the data; however once the information has been received, further consideration will be given to the most appropriate way to deal with it.

### **When is the consultation referred to by her to commence and close?**

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

My officials contacted key stakeholders in December, to inform them that the forthcoming review of our asbestos management in schools guidance would begin early in 2018.

The intention is that the guidance review period will begin before the end of February and last for 12 weeks, so that all feedback and findings can be considered.

**When will the results of the consultation be released?**

In order to ensure that all stakeholder views are considered, a consultation response document and the revised guidance will be released as soon after the 12 week review period as it is practicable to do so.

**When will the meeting take place to which key stakeholders will be invited?**

In the letter sent to key stakeholders in December 2017, my officials indicated that we would welcome a joint meeting with them for discussions on the consultation document. My officials are mindful that all stakeholders should have adequate time to review the revised guidance information to inform discussions, so this date will be arranged in agreement with all involved once the consultation is underway.

**Who are the proposed key stakeholders and how has this been determined?**

Key stakeholders were identified by the Asbestos Management in Schools Working Group (of which HSE Wales and Public Health Wales are part).

Decisions about stakeholder involvement were initially guided by the participants of the steering group in England, but also included those groups specific to Wales.

Information about the review has currently been distributed to all school based unions in Wales and committees such as: British Lung Foundation; JUAC; ColegauCymru; and the WLGA. The Cross Party Group, GovernorsWales and Further Education unions, as well as head teachers, through our Dysg Newsletter, will also be asked to provide comments for this review.

My officials have also been in separate correspondence with both Mr Cenric Clement Evans in his role as Secretary to the Cross Party Group on Asbestos and Dr Joseph Carter as Head of British Lung Foundation Wales, to detail the current key stakeholder list and asking for any additional stakeholder suggestions they may have.

Yours sincerely



**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**

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