



20 NOV 2013

2013/0067951PODL

Rt Hon David Laws MP
Minister of State for Schools

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Annette Brooke MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Annette, ^{15th} November 2013

Subject: Welsh schools and asbestos

Thank you for your letter of 25 October, on behalf of Cenric Clement-Evans, spokesperson for the Right to Know: Asbestos in Schools Wales Campaign.

I am pleased that you acknowledge the positive actions being taken by the Department for Education on this issue. However, the management of asbestos in schools in Wales rests with the Welsh Government. I can only advise that the best way to resolve these issues is by raising your concerns directly with the Welsh Government. Alongside this, I have asked officials in this Department to contact the Department for Education and Skills in Wales to discuss any information and further support on asbestos management in schools that it may find helpful.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has confirmed that it is responsible for the enforcement of health and safety law in all educational establishments across Great Britain, including enforcement of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. HSE's role is to make sure the risks from asbestos are controlled in premises across the three nations. HSE also responds to requests for advice on asbestos issues from all three education departments in Great Britain, and in this respect, I know it has provided authoritative advice to officials in this Department.

Although education policy is devolved, the requirements for managing the risks from asbestos are set out in legislation and guidance that apply across Great Britain.

Thank you for writing to me on this important issue. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

David Laws

David Laws MP