

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-522
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/00062/15

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

21 January 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of January 2015 in respect of asbestos management in schools in Wales. You asked for my views on further correspondence received and discussed at your meeting on 21 October, and the reasons for not conducting a public consultation in Wales.

I refer to my previous letter to you whereby I informed you that I will consider the findings of the consultation carried out by Department for Education and decide if any action is appropriate in Wales. I am aware that the consultation process ended in March 2014 but to date no outcome has been published. I therefore do not intend to consider this matter further at this time.

Although health and safety is a top priority, asbestos is safe if undisturbed so there is not necessarily a need for a programme to remove asbestos from all schools. It is safer to leave undamaged asbestos in situ and subject to regular assessment, rather than creating additional fibre or dust disturbance through its removal. The presence and removal of asbestos in schools will be addressed when schools are replaced or refurbished as part of the 21st Century Schools Programme.

All schools are required to have an asbestos management plan in place, but I do not intend to impose a duty on them to inform parents annually about the presence of asbestos as this would increase the administration burden.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis'.

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills