

Acting Chief Executive

**Kevin Myers**

Redgrave Court  
Merton Road  
Bootle  
Merseyside L20 7HS

Tel: 0151 951 4701  
Fax: 0151 951 3448  
kevin.myers@hse.gsi.gov.uk

William Powell AC/AM  
**BY EMAIL**

23 May 2014

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/>

Dear Mr Powell

**Petition - P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools**

Thank you for your letter of 30 April. I would like to offer some context before responding directly to the three questions you have posed.

HSE is a GB-wide regulator, and is responsible for enforcing the Control of Asbestos Regulations in schools in England, Scotland and Wales - as well as in most other workplaces. Whilst we produce guidance on how to comply with these regulations, and have policies on how we enforce these regulations, this should not be confused with HSE having responsibility for the policies adopted by those with duties under the regulations.

To illustrate this point - the regulations do not include any requirement to provide information to parents, or to provide access to such information online, but the Welsh Government could decide it wanted schools to do this. As long as asbestos is being managed effectively, in accordance with the requirements of the regulations, it is for the Welsh Government and the employers in individual schools to decide what more they want to do.

Turning to your specific questions:

- the work in England, led by DfE with support from HSE, has provided guidance to schools on managing asbestos which is relevant to schools and available through channels that schools regularly access. This seems to be an ideal route for getting important messages into schools, and could be adopted in Wales;
- there is no statutory requirement to inform students and parents about asbestos management in schools because the regulations are not school-specific and apply to all workplaces. There is, however, a statutory duty to

ensure that information about the location and condition of any asbestos is provided to every person liable to disturb it, and is made available to the emergency services; and

- as a regulatory body, HSE has no formal view on whether the Welsh Government should require such measures as a matter of policy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Myers', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

**KEVIN MYERS**  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE**