

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/02220/15
William Powell AM
Assembly Member for mid and west Wales
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff
CF99 1NA

22 December 2015

Dear William,

Following my attendance at the Petitions Committee on 24 November, I have been asked to clarify whether asbestos management in schools is included in governor training programmes, and provide further information on the membership of the Working Group for Wales including the draft terms of reference.

Asbestos training is not included in mandatory governor training. However, our Asbestos Management in Schools Guidance, which was published in May 2014, has been produced to ensure that head teachers, governors and other members of the school management team are aware of requirements in respect of asbestos management procedures and legislation.

The guidance includes a section on training requirements, which states that under the Regulations, information, instruction and training is required for anyone whose work could foreseeably expose them to asbestos, and those who supervise them. This includes staff and maintenance people who may become exposed to asbestos while carrying out their normal everyday work. It is also stated that any training needs to be appropriate for the work and the roles undertaken by individuals. On this basis, a Duty Holder may offer training to Governors if applicable to their roles.

I have also attached the draft terms of reference for the Asbestos Management in Wales Working Group. The main objective of the Working Group is to ensure that our guidance on the matter of asbestos in schools remains both current and appropriate; and to review the development of new approaches in England and how they may apply to Wales. The working group comprises representatives from NHS Wales, Public Health Wales, HSE Wales and the Welsh Government.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0300 0603300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0300 0604400
Correspondence.Huw.Lewis@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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.

The next meeting of the Working Group has been scheduled for the end of January 2016, at which time the draft terms of reference will be formalised.

I hope you find this clarification helpful.

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