

P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools – Correspondence from The Joint Union Asbestos Committee to the Clerking Team, 17.10.14.

Dear Kayleigh

I write on behalf of the Joint Union Asbestos Committee (JUAC) and in support of the Right to Know Petition calling for measures to be introduced to ensure that parents and guardians of children can easily access information about the asbestos in Wales schools and its management.

I am also very concerned that there is a lack of clarity over the issue of who is responsible for Policy for Asbestos Management in Schools in Wales. In England the Department for Education (DfE) accepts its Policy responsibility for Asbestos Management in Schools and is currently engaged in a public consultation through the DfE Steering Group – Asbestos in Schools to enable DfE to review and improve its Policy on this very serious issue.

JUAC has been campaigning now since 2010 for all UK schools to be made safe from the dangers of asbestos. Central to the JUAC campaign is the need for openness and transparency.

Most parents, pupils and indeed school staff are not aware of the presence and dangers of asbestos in schools and what measures should be taken to prevent asbestos fibre release.

It is vital that those likely to disturb asbestos in schools are informed of its presence and know how the asbestos is being managed in the school. Without this information there is increased potential for unnecessary accidental exposure even in a person's normal daily school activities.

JUAC supports the recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Group that parents, teachers and support staff are annually updated on the presence of asbestos in their schools and the measures that are being taken to manage it.

The link for the APPG Booklet – Asbestos in Schools is below and I would urge your Committee members to read this. It has been sent to all UK MPs.

<https://www.teachers.org.uk/files/appg-booklet-final-17-mar-14-asbestos-in-schools--2-1-.pdf>

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Winn

Chair JUAC

The Joint Union Asbestos Committee