

Kirsty Williams AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-522  
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/07174/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair, Petitions Committee

7 January 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your email of 16 December in which you asked for an update in relation to the publication of high level information about asbestos management in schools.

Collation of high level information is now complete and the data overleaf will be published before the end of January.

I would like you to please note that the information provided is as current as possible, and as highlighted previously, not Welsh Government data but a compilation of validated data returns by local authorities across Wales. It also does not reflect the level of asbestos present in each school, which can range from minimal to more widespread.

As part of this return all local authorities have confirmed that all schools with asbestos present have an asbestos management plan in place. We understand that this is reviewed on a regular basis by the duty holder to ensure it is an accurate record of the asbestos present. Such plans are readily available to all staff, visitors and contractors.

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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.

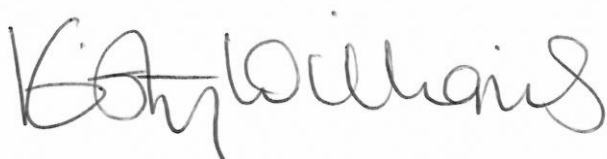
<b>Local authority</b>	<b>Total number of schools</b>	<b>Schools with asbestos</b>
Anglesey	41	37
Blaenau Gwent	28	20
Bridgend	48	26
Cardiff (2018)	111	91
Carmarthenshire	109	97
Caerphilly (2017)	87	78
Ceredigion (2018)	50	42
Conwy	60	52
Denbighshire	54	42
Flintshire	75	66
Gwynedd (2018)	105	98
Monmouthshire (2017/18)	34	32
Merthyr Tydfil	28	23
Newport	51	45
NPT	63	51
Pembrokeshire	65	44
Powys	101	88
RCT	121	99
Swansea	97	92
Torfaen	43	30
Vale of Glamorgan	58	48
Wrexham	68	51
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1497</b>	<b>1252</b>

I am pleased to see that over 15% of our schools do not have asbestos, which is a reflection of the significant part our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Colleges Programme has played since 2014. This will continue as we now move forward with our second wave of programme funding. I believe that it is important that we continue to monitor the impact that investment is having on eradicating asbestos in our schools estate.

Given the unprecedented situation over the last year, especially for officials in local authorities, I took the decision to reduce the number of requests to them. This included the annual condition survey return which captures the asbestos information. However, moving forward, I have asked my officials to plan for the distribution of this year's condition survey request in early summer, so that published information can be updated accordingly.

Please be assured that we continue to support the duty holders with appropriate and up to date guidance to help them fulfil their responsibilities of managing, monitoring and, if necessary, removing asbestos from their buildings.

Yours sincerely



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