

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-O4-0522
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/00378/14

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

3 March 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Petition Committee's request to investigate an apparent inconsistency regarding the responsibility for development of policies for the management and control of asbestos of schools in Wales.

As I explained in my letter to you of 2 January, responsibility for these issues has not been devolved to the Welsh Government but lies with the Health and Safety Executive. The legislative competence of the National Assembly for Wales is set out in Schedule 7 to the Government of Wales Act 2006. You will note that in Part 1 of that Schedule in the "Health and health services" subject there is an exception to the legislative competence of the NAW in relation to Health and Safety Commission, Health and Safety Executive.

While my officials have prepared guidance on asbestos management in schools, this is to give school staff the information they need to fulfil their responsibilities effectively and thus reflects the legislative requirements and policy of the Health and Safety Executive. A similar approach has been adopted in England.

Yours sincerely

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

Huw Lewis AC / AM
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