
Press Release for Immediate Use.....13th March 2015

**Asbestos Victims Groups Welcome Publication of Government's
Asbestos in Schools Report. Now we need long term strategic
policies to remove this deadly material from our schools**

The Department of Education has finally published its review of current policy on the Management of Asbestos in Schools. The publication had been delayed on numerous occasions. This caused many to fear that parts of the Government were attempting to suppress the report in an effort to stop the danger of asbestos in schools becoming an election issue.

The publication took place only days after yet more evidence emerged of the scale of the problem. Freedom of information requests by the Asbestos in Schools campaign revealed that up to 86% of UK schools contain asbestos. The health dangers of exposure to asbestos are well known, especially as the only known cause of the cancer mesothelioma.

Over 158 teachers have died from mesothelioma in the last ten years and the numbers continue to rise. According to the research undertaken by the Asbestos in Schools group between 200 and 300 people could die each year from their asbestos exposure as a child at school in the 1960s and 1970s.

Doug Jewell, Chair of the Asbestos Victims Support Group's Forum, said: "We are pleased the report has finally been published and we believe it is a step in the right direction. However this is only one step on a long journey. The findings of this review need to be built on and most importantly we need long term strategic policies that will eradicate asbestos from our schools".

Monday will see a written ministerial statement on the review put before Parliament and there will be an adjournment debate on Tuesday. We hope members of

Parliament will use this opportunity to press for the necessary long term policies that have long been argued for by the Asbestos in Schools group.

END

Notes for Editors

For further information contact Doug Jewell at the Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum on 0791 943 0059.

The Department of Education's review can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/412149/The_management_of_asbestos_in_schools_a_review_of_Department_for_Education_policy.pdf

The announcement by William Hague concerning the publication of the review and the timing of the Ministerial Statement and debate can be found here:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/hansard/commons/todays-commons-debates/read/unknown/213/>

The latest Newsletter from the Asbestos in Schools Group concerning this report can be found here:

<http://www.asbestosexposureschools.co.uk/npaper%20links/137.htm>

The background to this issue is covered in this recent article from the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat:

<http://ibasecretariat.org/lka-asbestos-an-election-issue.php>