



# Department of Education Sport and Culture

*Rheynn Ynsee, Spoyrt as Cultoor*

**Isle of Man**  
Government

Keellogh Eillean Mannagh

Mr Ian Kermode  
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Policy, Strategy and Governance Division  
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**Our ref: 3232233**

19 July 2023

Dear Mr Kermode,

We write further to your request which was received on 7 July 2023 and which states:

*"Given the serious and dangerous nature of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs), please can you confirm the following:*

- 1. Has an audit of ACMs in IOM schools (primary and secondary) been carried out? If so when? If not, why not?*
- 2. How many IOM school buildings (e.g. in ceiling tiles, insulation and roofing) contain ACMs?*
- 3. As the provider of children's education and also the relevant employer of staff in schools, how does the Department fulfil its legal duties for the identification, repair and removal of ACMs?*
- 4. What inspection records of the location, condition and stability of ACMs being in schools are kept?*
- 5. What formal written risk assessments have been undertaken in relation to ACMs in Manx schools?*
- 6. Have staff, pupils and parents been properly notified, informed and made aware of the existence and potential hazards of ACMs in any schools?*
- 7. Has the IOM Health & Safety Inspectorate every undertaken an inspection for ACMs in any IOM school? If so which ones and when?*
- 8. Is the Department complying with all of its legal duties in respect of managing risks from ACMs?*
- 9. Have there been any cases of lung cancer or mesothelioma linked to IOM schools?*
- 10. Do IOM schools have a management plan in relation to contractors (e.g. when undertaking maintenance work) and/or staff disturbing ACMs?*

*Thank you."*

Our response to your request is as follows:

## **Questions 1-7, 8 & 10**

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the public authority does not hold or cannot, after taking reasonable steps to do so, find the information that you have requested. The reason for this is all records on asbestos containing material (ACM's) transferred to the Department of Infrastructure when the

Works Division transferred to them, under the shared service, centralisation of Facilities Management across Government in 2012.

By way of assistance you may wish to re-direct this part of your request to the Department of Infrastructure who may be able to help you.

### **Question 7**

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the public authority does not hold the information that you have requested.

By way of assistance you may wish to contact the Health and Safety Inspectorate at the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture.

### **Question 9**

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the public authority does not hold the information that you have requested.

Please quote the reference number 3232233 in any future communications.

### **Your right to request a review**

If you are unhappy with this response to your freedom of information request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by completing a complaint form and submitting it electronically or by delivery/post.

An electronic version of our complaint form can be found by going to our website at <https://services.gov.im/freedom-of-information/Review> . If you would like a paper version of our complaint form to be sent to you by post, please contact me and I will be happy to arrange for this. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made as soon as practicable. We will respond as soon as the review has been concluded.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner for a decision on;

1. Whether we have responded to your request for information in accordance with Part 2 of the Freedom of Information Act 2015; or
2. Whether we are justified in refusing to give you the information requested.

In response to an application for review, the Information Commissioner may, at any time, attempt to resolve a matter by negotiation, conciliation, mediation or another form of alternative dispute resolution and will have regard to any outcome of this in making any subsequent decision.

More detailed information on your right to a review can be found on the Information Commissioner's website at [www.inforights.im](http://www.inforights.im).

Should you have any queries concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Further information about freedom of information requests can be found at [www.gov.im/foi](http://www.gov.im/foi).

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Officer