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| **Call for Evidence Response Form**  **Call for Evidence closing date: 31 March 2014** **Your comments must reach us by that date** |
| Policy Review: Asbestos Management in Schools |

Information provided in response to this call for evidence, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you want all, or any part, of your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Textbox | **Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.** | |  |
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If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by e-mail: [consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk) or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the Department's ['Contact Us'](https://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus) page.

Please mark the boxes that best describes you as a respondent. (For example, if you are a teacher in a secondary school that is an academy, please tick all three relevant boxes).

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Checkbox |  | | | HT/Principal | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Checkbox |  | | | Teacher | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Checkbox |  | | | Governor |
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**Policy review: asbestos management in schools**

We want to understand more about:

* the effectiveness of the current DfE policy;
* how asbestos is managed in schools; and
* how DfE can support duty holders to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.

Purpose of policy and the role of DfE

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements –

1 a) Asbestos management in schools works well.

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Checkbox |  | | | Disagree | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Checkbox |  | | | Strongly disagree |  |  |

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1 b) The current DfE policy offers the right level of support to schools.

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Checkbox |  | | | Disagree | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Checkbox |  | | | Strongly disagree |  |  |

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2 Are there other things that DfE could do to support duty holders to fulfil their responsibilities? If so, please give details.

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3 Can any issues only be fixed or resolved through government intervention? Is there something that needs to be done that only DfE can deliver? Please provide details.

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4 The role of duty holders is clearly outlined in legislation. Is there a role for others in supporting schools to manage asbestos effectively? If so, what is the role and who should carry it out?

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Evidence for change

We want to gather evidence – including real life examples - of how the current asbestos policy works in practice along with any evidence to support proposals for changes.

5 What examples of good practice are there and what works well?

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6 Are there any particular barriers or disincentives that hinder the effective management of asbestos in schools? Please provide details.

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7 What evidence is there that the current policy needs changing or that improvements need to be made? Please provide details.

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8 Do you have evidence to show that duty holders are not fulfilling their responsibilities? If so, please provide evidence of the underlying problems.

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9 What could be improved, how and by whom? What practical difference would your suggestion make to duty holders, school staff and pupils?

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10 What would be the estimated cost of any improvements that you suggest? How should these improvements be funded?

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Guidance and tools for duty holders/others

We want to understand more about what is helpful to duty holders and what more can be done to provide support.

11 Are you a duty holder for a school? If not, do you know who the duty holder is?

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12 a) Are you aware of the DfE asbestos management in schools guidance?

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12 b) Have you read/used the guidance?

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13 Has the guidance been useful and relevant to your needs? What did you find most helpful?

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14 Please provide any suggestions that you have to improve the DfE guidance.

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15 Please provide details of any other sources of guidance that you use or tools to help you understand and fulfil your responsibilities.

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16 Are there other things that could be done/provided that would help raise awareness of asbestos management issues? Please provide details.

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17 What would be the cost of any improvements that you suggest? How should these improvements be funded?

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18 If you have further views about asbestos management in schools that you would like to share, please add here or return with this response form.

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Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

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Here at the Department for Education we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, please confirm below if you would be willing to be contacted again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

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All DfE public consultations are required to meet the Cabinet Office [Principles on Consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/255180/Consultation-Principles-Oct-2013.pdf)

The key Consultation Principles are:

* departments will follow a range of timescales rather than defaulting to a 12-week period, particularly where extensive engagement has occurred before
* departments will need to give more thought to how they engage with and use real discussion with affected parties and experts as well as the expertise of civil service learning to make well informed decisions
* departments should explain what responses they have received and how these have been used in formulating policy
* consultation should be ‘digital by default’, but other forms should be used where these are needed to reach the groups affected by a policy
* the principles of the Compact between government and the voluntary and community sector will continue to be respected.

However, if you have any comments on how DfE consultations are conducted, please contact Carole Edge, DfE Consultation Coordinator, tel: 0370 000 2288 / email: [carole.edge@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:carole.edge@education.gsi.gov.uk)

**Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.**

Completed responses should be sent to the address shown below by 31 March 2014

Send by post to:  
DfE Asbestos Policy Review  
Central Capital Unit - 4th Floor  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BT

Send by e-mail to: [asbestos.review@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:asbestos.review@education.gsi.gov.uk)