Dear Meg,

Asbestos Management Assurance Process (AMAP) – Participation and Assurance Rates

In March 2018, the Department launched the Asbestos Management Assurance Process (AMAP), in line with expert advice to improve our understanding of the management of asbestos in the school estate and seek assurance that Responsible Bodies (the main employers) were complying with their duties.

At the Committee’s hearing on 25 June 2018 concerning Ofsted’s inspection of schools there were a series of questions about asbestos management in schools (Questions 49-56). I provided written evidence on 10 July, published with the Committee’s 60th Report, in which I undertook to update the Committee on the percentage of schools that participated in AMAP and the percentage of Responsible Bodies that provided an assurance declaration.

The AMAP closed on 27 July, and the figures are now available: 17,093 (77%) state-funded schools in England responded to the data collection and, of those, 11,713 (68.5%) responses had assurance declarations from the relevant Responsible Body.

This is a high response rate – particular for a voluntary data collection – and a significant improvement on the 25% of schools that responded to the previous data collection in 2016.

The Department is now analysing the AMAP data and intends to publish the AMAP report together with a list of the Responsible Bodies which have provided an assurance declaration, in December 2018. We will be writing to responsible bodies where we have concerns, and are referring cases to the Health and Safety Executive, as the regulator, as necessary.

I hope that you will welcome the level of participation in the AMAP, as a positive step forward in the Department’s development of a comprehensive understanding of the management of asbestos in the school estate.
I am copying this letter to Sir Amyas Morse, Comptroller and Auditor General and Richard Brown, Treasury Officer of Accounts.

JONATHAN SLATER
PERMANENT SECRETARY