

4 FEBRUARY 2004
SHORT DEBATE - THE STATE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Jane Davidson AM

Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning
Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol-Oes

JP 606/03-07



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Cardiff Bay/Bae Caerdydd
Cardiff/Caerdydd
CF99 1NA

Our Ref: MB/ JD/ 0864/ 04

Ann Jones AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

25 August 2004

Dear Ann

During the debate in Plenary on 4 February on the state of school buildings, I undertook to write to you about progress on the installation of sprinklers in schools.

One of the recommendations of the Assembly Government's Community Fire Safety Working Group in their report into arson in Wales - 'Up in Flames' - was that we should look to install sprinkler systems in all new school buildings and examine the potential for these in existing school buildings.

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration announced the piloting of sprinklers in 3 new/refurbished school buildings (one in each of the Fire and Rescue Service areas). The first system was installed at Ysgol Bryn Tawe, Penlan, Swansea last year.

Meetings have taken place with the relevant Local Education Authority with a view to installing sprinklers in a school in South Wales. There have been problems with costs and discussions are not complete.

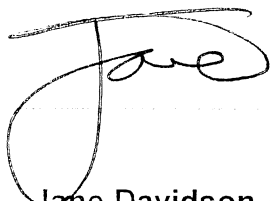
With regard to the North Wales scheme, officials met all the relevant organisations in June to discuss the proposal for a school in North Wales. A proposal is being developed by the relevant Local Education Authority and will be considered by Assembly officials.



Once all three pilot sprinkler installations have been completed we will monitor their impact before considering how to take the matter forward.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yan,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jane Davidson AM
Minister for Education & Lifelong Learning