

ASBESTOS

The majority of buildings across Campus were built between the 1960s and 1980s when the use of asbestos within their construction was prevalent. Asbestos material in good condition does not pose a risk to health, but if the material is damaged there is the potential for air borne fibre release.

The University has an statutory obligation to identify all asbestos containing material (ACM) within its buildings, regularly monitor the condition of this material and ,where necessary, due to deterioration have the ACM removed and transferred to an approved waste site. In certain cases it is not possible to remove the material and in these circumstances other approved methods to prevent fibre release are carried out. The removal of ACM could also take place as part of a refurbishment programme, where the works involved could potentially damage the ACM.

The responsibility for the management of asbestos containing material and the processes and procedures for monitoring and removal comes under Estates and Facilities Management. They maintain the Asbestos Registers that identify the ACM within each building, arrange permits to works necessary for all asbestos work and produce and keep up to date the Asbestos Management Plan (AMP), which details the roles and responsibilities and strict procedures that must be adhered to when dealing with this type of material.

All members of the campus community have a general duty to co-operate on issues of health and safety, and to ensure that they do not compromise their own safety, or the safety of others, by their acts or omissions and therefore as outlined in the University's Policy, staff and students must :

- i. Not remove any asbestos warning stickers provided to identify asbestos-containing materials***
- ii. Not undertake, or engage others to undertake, any activities which could lead to the release of asbestos fibres (for example undertake works on building fabric or services) without first gaining authorisation from the Director of Estates and Facilities Management***
- iii. Immediately inform a senior member of staff member of staff if they believe that a release of asbestos fibres has occurred, or could occur imminently***

It should be noted that asbestos warning stickers are located in void and service areas not generally accessible to the campus community. Do not, therefore, assume that because a label is not affixed to a material that it does not contain asbestos.

If you or a colleague suspect that they have disturbed or damaged asbestos containing material they must contact Helpdesk immediately on extension 7777. You must ensure that work in the area is stopped and, if necessary, the area vacated.

Note:

The University's Asbestos Management Policy document can be found on the Health & Safety web site.

The University's Management Plan can be found on the Estates & Facilities Division web site.

Asbestos Register's, detailing the location of ACM within each building, are kept with Estates and Facilities Division and should be requested in advance of any works being undertaken to the fabric of the building.