



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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Vera Rigby
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Dear Vera,

Thank you for your letter to the Prime Minister about the reopening of the Jeffrey asbestos mine in Canada. I am replying as a member of the North America Team.

Investment in the Jeffrey asbestos mine is a matter for the Canadian authorities. However, the UK Government is opposed to the use of asbestos anywhere, and would deplore its supply to developing countries. Asbestos is currently banned in 52 countries, including in the EU and the UK, and the UK Government encourages all countries which have not yet banned the use and supply of asbestos to do so. For countries still using asbestos, we encourage the use of systems for monitoring exposure and subsequent illness.

The UK will take every measure necessary to ensure that it does not indirectly (or directly) encourage the use or supply of asbestos globally.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Jordan
Assistant Desk Officer
North America Team