



Office of Hon Amy Adams

Member of Parliament for Selwyn

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Communications and Information Technology

Associate Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

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ENV 10780

Deidre van Gerven
Deidre.vangervan@xtra.co.nz

Dear Deidre van Gerven

Thank you for your email of 11 July 2013 regarding the importation of materials containing asbestos.

I agree that managing the potential effects of asbestos is important. The government has recently announced the most significant reform of New Zealand's health and safety system in 20 years. The reform will include a stronger focus on occupational harm and hazardous substances. Work to address occupational health will be better resourced and programmes to effectively monitor and analyse occupational health hazards, and the harm that results, will be developed.

I have also directed my officials to investigate whether asbestos containing materials are being imported and, if so, their volume and type. Further measures to manage the risks posed by asbestos remain a possibility following this investigation. It is likely that this research will begin early next year, once the current health and safety reforms are further progressed.

Yours sincerely

Hon Amy Adams
Minister for the Environment