

Councillor Mary Jones  
Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

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*Date:* 26 November 2018

**BY EMAIL**

Dear Councillor Jones

**CABINET MEMBER QUESTION SESSION – 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

With reference to your letter dated 9 November 2018 please find response below.

- *Communicate with governing bodies about reducing the health risk caused by vehicle exhaust emissions around schools and asking them to cascade the message in their communities; and*
- *Take appropriate action regarding DBS checks for school governors*

The School and Governor Unit can circulate a request for governing bodies to communicate to their communities regarding health risks associated with exhaust emissions although it should be noted that the role of governing bodies is a strategic one linked to developing the overarching policies for schools. It is not always appropriate for governors to communicate directly with parents over issues as the boundaries between their strategic role and the day to day management responsibility, which rests with the headteacher, can become blurred. It might be more appropriate to ask governing bodies to consider whether or not their wellbeing policies take into account health risks associated with exhaust emissions and request that they agree that a strategy is in place for communicating a message to parents. The School and Governor Unit would welcome the views of the Scrutiny Committee on this proposal and once the preferred approach is confirmed they will communicate accordingly.

To provide clarity in respect of the requirement for governors to have DBS checks: There is nothing in legislation which requires school governors to undertake a DBS check however, it would be essential for any governor who was to have unsupervised contact with children to have a DBS in the same way as any other school volunteer. Due to the sensitive nature of the work of school governors the local authority (LA) strongly recommended that governing bodies agree that all governors should undertake a DBS check on appointment with a three yearly renewal. The LA is not able to make this mandatory as it is not provided for in legislation.

If a governing body agrees that all governors should undertake a DBS check and a governor refuses then the governor is disqualified. For this reason it is important that the clerk to governors minutes the decision of the governing body in relation to DBS check and that newly appointed governors are informed.

The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations states that:

Refusal to make an application for a criminal records certificate

12. A person is disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a governor at any time when he or she refuses a request by the Governing Body to make an application under section 113 of the Police Act 1997 (13) for a criminal records certificate.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Raynor', written in a cursive style.

**Councillor Jennifer Raynor**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT, LEARNING & SKILLS**