

NOVEMBER 2018

## TRUMP - MAKE ASBESTOS GREAT AGAIN



Under the Health and Safety at Work Act, a fine of **£200,000** was levied against

Kent County Council for oversight issues. The Court found that as the employer it had not ensured employees liable to be exposed to asbestos had been trained adequately. During a routine EHO officer food inspection they found asbestos rope hanging from the school's kitchen ceiling.

An investigation by the HSE found that the school's caretaker, on the apparent instructions of the then headteacher, had disturbed an asbestos flue pipe and an asbestos rope gasket while removing an air steriliser in May 2013 to make way for a freezer.

The HSE served a prohibition notice, closing the kitchen. The notice said: "You have failed to prevent the exposure of employees to asbestos so far as reasonably practicable, in particular the partial steriliser flue and sealant in the school kitchen."

It was reported that neither the caretaker nor the headteacher had any asbestos management or awareness training. Though the council did have policies on providing asbestos training, it had failed to check and monitor that they were being properly followed.

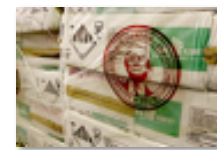
Kent pleaded guilty to breaching reg 10(1) of the Control of Asbestos Regulations.

Due to the council's early guilty plea, the judge awarded a full discount reflected in the fine of £200,000 with full costs of £21,501 to be paid. The guidelines allow for £400,000 but it was acknowledged that it would fall to residents to pay.



Sixty nations have totally banned asbestos, and in the U.S.A. its use was restricted to use in gaskets for Chlor-alkali processes. But now the U.S. EPA, bowing to Trump's deregulatory agenda, is open to approving new specified uses for asbestos, including roof coatings, sealants, adhesives, millboard, and "other building products". Asbestos reportedly kills up to 15,000 Americans a year, so why imperil the health of more Americans? Up until last year,

Brazil was the largest exporter to America, supplying the limited needs, but saw the light and banned its manufacture and sale. Since then, Russia has stepped in as a supplier. It is considered that Trump sees this as the thin end of a wedge and wants to widen the market as he is relentlessly loyal to Putin, he prioritises Russian business interests over Americans' health.



Hopefully he is thwarted by the checks and balances of the judiciary.

## FIRE RISK CAPABILITIES

We are really pleased to announce On Advice has increased their fire risk assessment capabilities with a new associate, until his recent retirement from Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, Joe was a lead Fire Risk inspector. If you are a legally defined or designated Responsible Person and feel overwhelmed by the duty, then On Advice can help. Providing a bespoke service to meet your obligations under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, our experienced Risk Assessors will ensure a thorough risk assessment will be completed and the outcomes discussed with you.



BBC  
RADIO



## ASBESTOS IN SCHOOLS

Our Managing Director, Jason Hodgkiss was called upon by the BBC, to give expert comment for a feature on the Nicky Campbell breakfast show. The perennial issue of asbestos in schools had come to the fore again. The issue was described as a 'ticking time bomb', Jason pointed out that this is an inaccurate analogy; the asbestos legacy arises from activities that occurred during the 20th century and various parties in the 'Asbestos' industry, inter alia HSE, Consultants and Contractors, have been working to mitigate the effects. Similar to Global warming, it is happening, caused by human activities since the industrial revolution and all that can be done is try to mitigate effects. Unfortunately the genie is out of the bottle.