To the occupier

Health advice and reassurance following the fire at Bedding Centre, Regent Street, Kettering – 13 May 2019

Following the fire in Regent Street, Kettering earlier this week, we are writing to update you on the current situation.

The site involved in this fire may have had asbestos containing materials (ACM) within the building. During fires, ACM may become damaged and depending on the ferocity of the fire, fragments of ACM can be spread by the fire.

There is no evidence so far of any contamination outside of the building and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue advise that any potential spread is likely to be over a limited area, if at all.

For your information any contamination is of no significant health concern as asbestos fibres are held tightly within the body of cement products and consequently the fibres are not readily released into the air during a fire. Therefore it is important to realise that the risks to health are low and there is unlikely to be any significant exposure to asbestos following fires involving ACM.

While there is no direct evidence of long-term health risks from fires involving ACM it is sensible that any asbestos containing debris is removed to minimise any potential exposure.

If you find ash or debris from the fire on your property, you are advised to leave it alone. If there is evidence of debris in your garden avoid disturbing the material, for example do not mow the lawn until it has been cleared up and removed.

If it is absolutely necessary for you to remove debris yourself (e.g. from a car windscreen) first dampen down the debris using water, then either gently flush away small particles to the drain or, wearing protective gloves to prevent scratches, pick up larger pieces carefully and place them within two plastic bags, one within the other (double bag), seal the bags and call the number above to arrange collection or take
to your local household waste recycling centre (tip). Do not sweep up or vacuum debris as this could create airborne dust.

Kettering Borough Council is arranging a survey and, if required, a clean-up of any ACM spread by the fire which may have fallen as ash and debris over the surrounding area and been deposited on nearby properties, gardens and streets, in conjunction with the premises’ insurers.

The latest general information around the incident can be found at www.kettering.gov.uk/regentstreetfire

If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please visit the above website or contact the numbers at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Russ Howell

*Health Services Manager*