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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board



Meeting Date	02 December 2019	Agenda Item	2.12
Report Title	Radon Gas Update		
Report Author	Mark Parsons, Interim Assistant Director of Health & Safety		
Report Sponsor	Gareth Howells, Director of Nursing and Patient Experience		
Presented by	Mark Parsons, Interim Assistant Director of Health & Safety		
Freedom of Information	Open		
Purpose of the Report	The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Health and Safety Committee on Radon Gas assessments and the monitoring of premises where the Health Board has responsibility for Radon Gas compliance.		
Key Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain up to date property list post boundary changes (April 2019). • Review previous table top assessments (2017) to ascertain levels of risk in line with Public Health England guidelines and compare to new list. • Obtain new quotes for the property portfolio to take account of boundary changes in April 2019. • Commission appropriate provider to undertake the placement, collection and analysis of monitors. • Review results from monitoring and undertake actions where appropriate. 		
Specific Action Required <i>(please choose one only)</i>	Information	Discussion	Assurance
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recommendations	Members are asked to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOTE the report 		

RADON POTENTIAL ASSESSMENT UPDATE

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Health and Safety Committee on Radon Gas assessments and the monitoring of premises where the Health Board has responsibility for Radon Gas compliance.

2. BACKGROUND

Under the Health and Safety at Work etc., Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Swansea Bay University Health Board are required to undertake risk assessments, this should include radon gas in the following circumstances:

- Above ground in appropriate ground floor rooms where the building is located in a radon affected area.
- Below ground workplaces (for example those occupied greater than an average of an hour per week or approximately 50 hours per year) – (Basements, cellars etc.) irrespective of the above ground affected areas status.

Radon is a colourless, odourless radioactive gas. It is formed by the radioactive decay of small amounts of uranium that occur naturally in all rocks and soils. Currently 300 Becquerels per cubic metre of air (Bq/m³) is the level where action is required to reduce radon levels within premises/sites.

Public Health England (PHE) recommend the radon map guidance is as follows:

- >10% - Monitoring is essential
- 1 – 10% - Monitoring is recommended
- < 1% - Monitoring recommended if basement rooms are in use

The Health Board has previously commissioned a radon gas potential assessment covering 54 sites where the responsibility of radon compliance falls to the Health Board, this identified 31 sites that have an estimated radon probability of less than 1% and 23 within radon affected areas. One of the 23 sites was identified as high risk and monitoring was considered as an essential requirement.

3. CURRENT STATUS

The original radon gas potential assessment undertaken in 2017, identified one site with a 10% – 30% radon potential (high risk), and 22 sites with a 1% – 5% radon potential (medium risk).

Where the workplace measurements show annual average radon levels below 300 Bq/m³, as is the case for the majority of employers, then the only further action required is to decide when the risk assessment will be reviewed.

The Murton Green Clinic, Murton was categorised as high risk, which was subsequently monitored with the results being well below the 300 Bq/m³ action levels, so no further action was required.

Cefn Coed Hospital, Cockett was the only other site that was monitored in the medium category, this site also had readings well below the action levels with no further action required.

4. NEXT STEPS

To ensure that ongoing effective monitoring processes are in place, the Health Board has commissioned and initiated a prioritised monitoring regime which commenced on 26th October 2019. The gas monitoring devices need to be in situ for 3 months to collect an accurate reading and these readings will then inform the Health Board's response. For areas deemed to be low risk the Health Board has commissioned a desk top review premises in these areas and this will be included in the final report with gas monitoring findings.

Once the report is received the Health Board will: -

- Review the results of the monitoring
- Obtain quotes for recommended work if results from monitoring identify action
- Developing an action plan to undertake identified works and source funding.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are financial implications to undertake the radon gas potential assessment and the actual monitoring, there will be costs associated to the monitoring if any of the sites exceed the action levels of 300Bq/m³. In addition there is potential for increased revenue costs for the site.

6. RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to:

- **NOTE** the report

Governance and Assurance		
Link to Enabling Objectives <i>(please choose)</i>	Supporting better health and wellbeing by actively promoting and empowering people to live well in resilient communities	
	Partnerships for Improving Health and Wellbeing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Co-Production and Health Literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Digitally Enabled Health and Wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Deliver better care through excellent health and care services achieving the outcomes that matter most to people	
	Best Value Outcomes and High Quality Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Partnerships for Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Excellent Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Digitally Enabled Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Outstanding Research, Innovation, Education and Learning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and Care Standards		
<i>(please choose)</i>	Staying Healthy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Safe Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Effective Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Dignified Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Timely Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Individual Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Staff and Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quality, Safety and Patient Experience		
Undertaking the radon gas assessments ensures there effective systems in place to assess and monitor radon levels to provide safe and healthy environment.		
Financial Implications		
There are cost implication to commission radon potential assessments (costs to be sought); additional cost to cover monitoring and analysis for the identified sites and potential costs for undertaking any recommendation and revenue for running and maintenance.		
Legal Implications (including equality and diversity assessment)		
Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy work place, which includes radon assessments and monitoring in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 • Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 • Ionising and Radiation Regulations 2017 		
Staffing Implications		
If any site is found to exceed the becquerels per cubic meter of air (Bq/m3) action level, staff at the site will be informed and kept up to date of actions to be undertaken.		
Long Term Implications (including the impact of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015)		
The effective monitoring of radon gas across the SBUHB estate contributes to the long-term management of the sites identified as being within radon gas affected areas.		
Report History	-	
Appendices	-	