

22.12.12

1 Deputy R.J. Ward of the Minister for Children and Education regarding Air Quality monitoring in schools (OQ.130/2022)

Again, this question comes from a constituent; just as a general question. Will the Minister advise what actions are currently undertaken to monitor air quality inside schools, including CO₂ monitoring?

Deputy I. Gardiner of St. Helier North (The Minister for Children and Education):

Since the pandemic started 300 CO₂ monitors have been distributed to school to monitor air quality. This has allowed school leaders to assess whether further action is required to improve air quality across different areas of the school building. Detailed guidance has been provided to school leaders to explain how to effectively use these portable CO₂ monitors and what remedial actions can be taken should the devices record a high level of CO₂. This includes improving quality through improved ventilation or use of air filtration devices.

4.1.1 Deputy R.J. Ward:

How are we checking that they are being placed in the right place? The query came from a concern that one of the CO₂ monitors was not being put centrally within a school but perhaps into an office, for example. So just to check there is a double check going on that they are being used appropriately.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

I am happy to go to officers and double check a framework for checks but, from my understanding, from my conversation with the officers because during September, October heading towards the winter, possible cold and COVID, we did have extensive discussions about air filtration and air ventilation. I have been told the teachers in classes where it was put and also school leaders were trained and how to follow it up. Also I have asked officers - it has been done - all headteachers received an email on 12th October 2022 re-emphasising the guidance and also being asked to submit any request for extra air filtration units if they are required. We have 50 units on order now.