



## About Lead Safe World UK's letter to Duncan Selbie, Public Health England

After we failed to convince the [National Screening Committee](#) of the value of screening children for elevated blood lead levels we wrote Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive, Public Health England (PHE). Our letter is below. His office replied. It would appear that our letter had not been read by Mr Selbie himself, but his office was then asked how we could get more attention. [21<sup>st</sup> February 2019 update: Lead Safe World UK received an email from a Correspondence and Public Enquiries Officer at Public Health England. This not only confirmed that their Chief Executive, Duncan Selbie has read our letter, but also includes an invitation to meet with the Lead Exposure in Children Surveillance System (LEICSS) group.]

Mr Selbie's office noted recent reports regarding the Lead Exposure in Children Surveillance System ([LEICSS](#)) and Surveillance of Elevated Blood Lead in Children ([SLiC](#)). We have been asking for these reports to be finished and published.

It should be noted that these reports document identified lead poisoning cases, but not the prevalence of elevated blood lead levels.

The reports include several recommendations and PHE have been asked if/when they will be implemented. Several of the recommendations are regarding internal procedures, but others would do a lot to advance lead toxicity prevention in the UK including:

- Consider the evidence and arguments for lowering the public health action level and laboratory reporting BLC (blood lead count) to  $\geq 0.24\mu\text{mol/L}$  ( $5\mu\text{g/dl}$ )
- Develop a broader group of consulting stakeholders including clinical and lay (parent and guardian) representatives
- Be aware that there is likely a large variation in clinician awareness, testing and reporting practice for lead exposure in children
- Educate parents/guardians of children at risk about prevention of lead exposure consider lead exposure as a potential diagnosis in children presenting with symptoms/signs of acute or chronic lead exposure
- Update the advice and guidance for the public, healthcare and environmental health professionals on lead hazards and risks, and prevention or mitigation of environmental exposures



- Review the evidence for making homes in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (RoI) 'lead safe', for example by removing sources of lead in homes and preventing exposure, particularly in at-risk groups
- Update advice and guidance for paediatricians, general practitioners, and other clinicians on the diagnosis, investigation and clinical management of raised blood concentrations
- Consider analysis of the costs of investigation and management of raised blood levels in children in the UK and the RoI, and the potential costs and benefits of prevention, in order to provide evidence for the most cost-effective strategy

Lead Safe World UK are now considered as stakeholders and we are told that we will be invited to contribute to the LEICSS steering group in the spring.

### **Harassment by Lead Users**

Lead poisoning prevention campaigners, in the UK and other countries, have experienced resistance from people in lead-using industries, and others, for example, online abuse. This experience is very rare, and other factors may have aggravated the harassment, but to try to avoid it, where possible, personal names are not used and our communications are from organisational identities such as Lead Safe World UK.

Where appropriate, Lead Safe World UK communications include statements containing the following sentiments:

It should be noted that we do not believe that it is helpful to try to identify or blame any companies, organisations or individuals for the past use of lead. We want to understand where we are and move forward with collective resolutions.

“Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past, let us accept our own responsibility for the future.” – John F. Kennedy



2018 VAP  
Entry.  
Title:  
Medical  
Medium  
Anthony  
William's  
Heavy  
Metal  
Detox  
Smoothie.  
**Lead-  
Safety  
Message:**  
Drinking  
this  
delicious  
Heavy  
Metal  
Detox  
Smoothie  
nearly  
every day

in 2018 has definitely brought my blood lead level down. Collage Artist: Elizabeth O'Brien.

<http://volcanoartprize.com/portfolio-item/medical-medium-anthony-williams-heavy-metal-detox-smoothie/>