



**The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP**  
Secretary of State for Education

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Robin Walker MP  
Chair of the Education Select Committee

By email

8 February 2024

### **Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in education settings**

Dear Robin,

I am writing to update you on how the government is supporting education settings in England with confirmed Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) following my appearance at the Education Select Committee in December.

We have today published an updated list of schools and colleges in England with confirmed RAAC. There are over 22,000 schools and colleges in England and the vast majority are unaffected by RAAC. There are 234 education settings, around 1%, with confirmed RAAC in some areas of their buildings. Thanks to the hard work of school and college leaders, all schools and colleges with confirmed RAAC are providing full time face-to-face education for all pupils.

As you know, the government is funding the removal of RAAC present in school and colleges either through grants, or through the School Rebuilding Programme. The longer-term requirements of each school or college will vary depending on the extent of the issue and nature and design of the buildings. Permanently removing RAAC may involve refurbishment or rebuilding affected buildings.

We have confirmed today to schools and colleges how we will fund them to remove RAAC permanently. 119 schools are being included within the School Rebuilding Programme where works to remove RAAC are more extensive or complex. 110 schools and colleges will receive grant funding where works will typically be smaller in scale. 5 schools and colleges have alternative arrangements in place, for example the building will not be part of the school or college estate over the longer term or where the case has only recently been confirmed and we are assessing the best solution for removal.

We are working with responsible bodies to take forward this work as quickly as possible. In some cases, this may involve undertaking technical assessments to inform the design of building works and in other cases the removal of RAAC is already underway and will be completed in the coming months.

As you are aware, we issued a questionnaire to responsible bodies to ask them to identify whether or not they had, or suspected they had, RAAC and started a significant programme of technical surveys to identify RAAC across the education estate. The Department for Education's RAAC identification programme is now complete, and the questionnaire has closed. All responsible bodies for schools and colleges with blocks built in the target era have submitted responses to the questionnaire.

Any school or college that advised us they suspect they might have RAAC has had a survey to confirm if RAAC is present. Other than the 234 education settings, the surveys found no evidence of RAAC.

With regards to the additional checks which are being carried out, a small number of schools and colleges are carrying out checks for further assurance in some spaces. Every case is unique. For example, in some cases additional checks are limited to non-teaching spaces or small areas. We are working with responsible bodies to support them to complete these additional checks as quickly as possible. The pace of identification of RAAC has slowed with only 3 cases identified over the last 2 months. If there are further cases confirmed, we expect the number to be very low.

The documents published today, including the list of education settings with confirmed RAAC in some areas of their buildings, are attached to this letter.

At my appearance at the Education Select Committee on 6 December with the Permanent Secretary, I committed to write to update you on the progress of securing temporary units. Our team of caseworkers and project delivery teams have been working closely with schools and colleges with RAAC to deliver these and to implement bespoke mitigation plans.

Over 500 temporary units have now been installed across over 50 schools and colleges, including general and specialist classrooms and other spaces like toilet blocks, offices and those needed for dining. We are aware that around 50 further schools and colleges are discussing possible use of temporary units as part of their mitigation plans. There may be additional temporary units installed and being discussed by responsible bodies that we are not aware of.

There is not a one-size-fits all mitigation plan and our priority has been to support schools and colleges to put in place solutions that suit their circumstances. Mitigation plans include making use of other spaces on the school site, or in a nearby school or elsewhere in the local area, until structural works are carried out or, for some

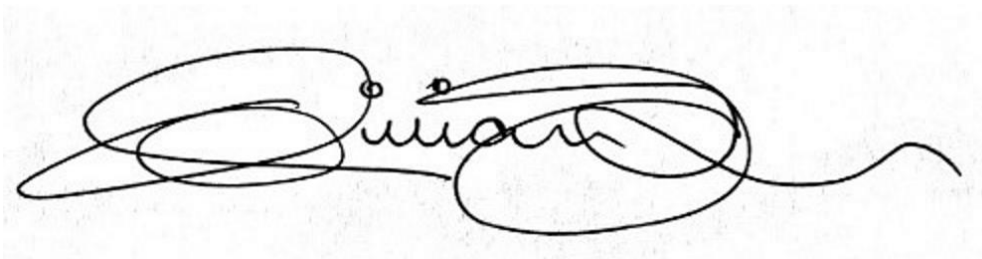
settings, putting in place temporary units. Temporary units are not needed in all cases and where they are, it might be only part of the mitigation plan. Where temporary units are needed, this might be general classroom space or specialist facilities, with the latter often involving more complex specifications and installation.

The numbers of temporary units are therefore only part of the picture as schools and colleges may implement a variety of measures to best suit their needs. This might include using specialist facilities at an alternative local space in the short term whilst structural works are carried out in affected spaces.

Thanks to the hard work of school and college leaders and teachers, all schools and colleges with confirmed RAAC are providing full time face-to-face education for all pupils.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Committee for your support as we mark this turning point in our resolve to remove RAAC from our education estate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gillian Keegan', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

**The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP  
Secretary of State**