



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Lord Markham
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State*

*39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU*

28 February 2024

Steve Brine MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Steve,

I am writing to update you in your capacity as Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee, regarding the presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in hospital sites. The department intends to publish an update on 29th February to the list of hospitals with confirmed RAAC, which was first published in October 2023.

Our top priority remains protecting the safety of both patients and staff and we want to explain the approach we are taking with regards to this. The NHS has been surveying sites and undertaking RAAC mitigation work since 2019 and has had an active national remediation programme since 2021 to mitigate and monitor the risks posed by RAAC across the NHS estate. This is backed by significant additional funding of £698m between 2021 and 2025.

To date, RAAC has been completely eradicated in four hospital sites through this programme. Where RAAC remains present, mitigation measures such as installing beams are in place to reduce risk. This includes significant intervention in the seven hospitals most affected by RAAC and requiring replacements through the New Hospital Programme before 2030. In most other identified cases, RAAC has been found in limited parts of a hospital site or an individual building.

Where new cases of RAAC are identified, Trusts are onboarded on the national programme. In parallel, monitoring and mitigations are put in place where needed and panels will be removed over time. Further, Trust boards will inform staff in line with guidance.

Keeping capacity open but being scrupulous about RAAC monitoring and mitigation until the RAAC can be removed is fully in line with the current evidence and recommendations of the Institution of Structural Engineers.

I hope this letter is helpful in explaining the situation and steps being taken.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, cursive letters that appear to be 'M', 'A', and 'R'.

LORD MARKHAM CBE