



Rt Hon Gillian Keegan
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
LONDON SW1P 3BT

7th September 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

Last week you published a small amount of information on the progress with the crisis in schools caused by reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC). Your department told us:

- more than 90 per cent of schools are covered by responsible bodies that have completed the RAAC questionnaire¹;
- in 156 schools it was confirmed that RAAC was present²; and
- 52 of 156 schools have mitigations in place to protect pupils and staff from RAAC³.

However, this does not appear to reflect the full extent of the problem. In May, the Department for Education (DfE) told the National Audit Office (NAO)⁴:

- 86 per cent of schools are covered by responsible bodies that have completed the RAAC questionnaire;
- 14,900 schools are at risk of containing RAAC;
- 6,300 of 14,900 schools had been walked round to identify possible RAAC;
- 572 of 6,300 schools suspected they had RAAC
- 196 of 572 schools had been surveyed to determine if they had RAAC;

¹ DfE, *Everything you need to know about the new guidance on RAAC in education settings*, 4th September 2023 <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/09/04/new-guidance-on-raac-in-education-settings/>

² DfE, *Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC): management information*, 31st August 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-raac-management-information>

³ Ibid

⁴ NAO, *Condition of school buildings*, 28th June 2023, paragraphs 2.12 to 2.15 <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/condition-of-school-buildings.pdf>

- 65 of 196 schools had confirmed RAAC was present; and
- 24 of 65 schools required mitigations to protect pupils and staff from RAAC.

We believe it is incumbent on the DfE to update the figures it has published in order to eliminate misunderstanding of the scale of the problem.

Using the data the DfE provided to the NAO, we estimate that hundreds more schools could have RAAC⁵ and we presume this is why you told the Today programme there could be “hundreds” more schools with RAAC⁶. If the Government does not increase funding for the school rebuilding programme which is currently refurbishing 50 schools a year, then the RAAC problem will not be resolved until the 2030s.

Please could you answer the following urgent questions:

1. How many schools at risk of RAAC have not had an investigation?
2. How many schools suspect they could have RAAC?
3. How many schools with suspected RAAC have yet to be surveyed?
4. How long does the Government expect it to take for all at-risk schools to be investigated?
5. How long does the Government think it will take for all schools with suspected RAAC to be surveyed?
6. What deadline has been set to clear RAAC from every school?

We would be grateful if you could reply within the next week.

Yours sincerely,



Daniel Kebede
General Secretary, National Education Union



Dr Patrick Roach
General Secretary, NASUWT



Paul Whiteman
General Secretary, NAHT



Gary Smith
General Secretary, GMB



Christina McAnea
General Secretary, UNISON



Sharon Graham
General Secretary, UNITE

⁵ Nine per cent of schools that completed a walk round suspected they had RAAC, 572 out of 6,300. A third of surveyed schools found RAAC, 65 out of 196. 9% of 14,900 is 1,393 and a third of 1,393 is 450.

⁶ BBC Radio 4, *Today*, 4th September 2023