



The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan  
Secretary of State  
Department for Education

By email

6 September 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing following the Department for Education's announcements about school building safety, and the failure to include support staff unions in any briefings on the matter last week alongside teaching and school leaders' unions.

For nearly a year, we have repeatedly asked the DfE for information on the nature and location of school buildings affected by this issue so as to be able to support our members and their employers and support engagement with the RAAC survey. However, at each turn the Department (after initially saying it held no such information) has refused to provide the information requested. Whilst this matter may yet be subject to further interaction with the Information Commissioner, we are now in a position where the continuing uncertainty is causing significant anxiety among our members, many of whom who are also parent or carers. We are having to field these concerns without having a full understanding of which schools are affected.

As mentioned in previous meetings with the Department on this issue, the absence of information also leads to speculation and a sense of mistrust.

To prevent further anxieties and disruptions, we request the following information:

1. A full list of the schools with suspected RAAC; including all schools awaiting structural examinations / DfE surveys and a timetable for completion of this work.
2. The specific advice the DfE is giving schools which have suspected RAAC, or are awaiting DfE surveys about the use of buildings.
3. A full list of schools yet to respond to the DfE RAAC survey.
4. Information on what financial assistance is being put in place for outsourced providers of services to schools which have had to close. These closures could result in a precarious contractual position for staff delivering services such as catering and cleaning.

As this is a matter of the utmost urgency, we request this information by Tuesday 12 September.

Yours sincerely,

*Avril Chambers*

Avril Chambers  
National Officer | GMB

*M. R. Short*

Mike Short  
National Secretary | UNISON

*Onay Kasab*

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