

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Douglas Ross MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People Committee

ECYP.committee@parliament.scot

29 July 2025

Dear Douglas,

Thank you for your letter of 23 June. As Minister for Higher and Further Education, I am responding as matters relating to Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in the college and university estate fall within my portfolio responsibilities.

The Scottish Government values the vital role that colleges and universities play in supporting Scottish economy and society and recognises the range of issues and pressures they are managing, including in relation to their estates.

While responsibility for building maintenance, including the management of RAAC, lies with property owners, safety remains a government priority. As part of its role in supporting and overseeing college and university infrastructure, the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) has worked with all institutions to assess the presence and condition of RAAC across the sectors. SFC has provided guidance, including from the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE), and continues to support colleges and universities in interpreting and applying this advice as needed. In addition, SFC is monitoring progress against self-reported timelines to ensure key milestones are met and to help coordinate a consistent, sector-wide response. Although RAAC-related maintenance remains the responsibility of building owners, the Scottish Government continues to monitor the situation through regular updates from SFC.

SFC has provided assurance to officials that all identified risks are being appropriately assessed and managed as a result of RAAC-related issues. Where necessary, and possible, alternative accommodation and learning arrangements have been implemented to ensure continuity of education and student wellbeing.

SFC is working closely with the college sector on the development of a College Infrastructure Investment Plan with a progress update expected to be published in the coming weeks.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

The work that SFC has undertaken is part of the wider sector lead response to the issue of RAAC across Scotland. While the Cross Sector Working Group provided a forum for sharing information and best practice, responsibility for responding to RAAC rests with building owners.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills regularly engaged with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, while she was leading the response to issues related to RAAC when they initially emerged.

It is disappointing to note that, despite repeated requests, neither the previous or current UK Government has committed to establishing a UK-wide remediation fund for RAAC.

I am copying this letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills and the Cabinet Secretary for Housing.

Yours sincerely,



GRAEME DEY MSP

Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
We invest in people Silver

