

## **Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee**

The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

**UK Government** 

27 June 2025

Dear Angela,

## Remediation for building owners impacted by the use of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete

The Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee has been considering building safety, specifically damp and mould, cladding and the use of use of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete.

On <u>22 April 2025</u>, we took evidence from the then Minister for Housing, Paul McLennan MSP, during which he said:

"There are a number of points to make. I know that the UK Government approach was very much based on hospitals and education buildings, but there was not an extensive look at the RAAC issue in the UK. We continue to push for that. As you know, the budget is set against continued and unprecedented pressures on the public finances, which is one of the issues. We will continue to push the UK Government on that point, and any support that we can get from the committee or from Mr Griffin's Labour Party colleagues would be extremely helpful.

We have talked about IStructE, which does not define RAAC as a defective material, and it is still widely used. Again, it depends very much on whether we are talking about a repair, demolition and so on. We will continue to look at the issue, but we will need support from the UK Government for any such remediation programme going forward. We will continue to push the matter; the previous UK Government said that it would fund necessary improvements, but obviously there has been a change of Government. The current Government has not, so far, refused to provide funding to help us in that regard, but we will continue to look at the issue as we move forward."

He added:

Contact: Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email localgov.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

"I should say, though, that this does come down to funding; we will continue to press the UK Government on that, but so far we have not received any positive reply. We will also continue to engage with home owners and see how best we can support them."

We recognise the position of the UK Government is that instances of RAAC in private homes is "low" and that funding, including in the most recent spending review, is being made available for remediation in public buildings such as schools and hospitals.

However, we seek details of your engagement with the Scottish Government on the issue of funding for RAAC remediation and how you believe support for homeowners who find themselves in a building containing this material can be best supported, including financially.

On behalf of the Committee, I request a response by 1 August 2025. I look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely,

Ariane Burgess MSP Convener