



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

RR16005

Mr Jeremy Miles  
Minister of State for Education & Welsh Language

(SENT BY EMAIL)

5 September 2023

Dear Minister,

**RE: Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete in Wales**

You will be acutely aware the education of our children and young people in Wales is crucially important for the growth of our future economy. Doing so in a safe, welcoming, and encouraging environment is possibly the most important part of the education setting.

I'm certain Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete has its uses, but it should never have been used in our schools or public amenity buildings. The fact of the matter is it has been used, and we must now swiftly identify all affected buildings and fix this issue no matter the cost.

It is estimated that the use of RAAC in our school building began in the 1960s, and as such this pre-dates devolution, which only dates back to the late 1990s, and many of the politicians sitting in the House of Commons and The Senedd.

Minister, on Monday afternoon in the House of Commons Chamber I asked the Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan to ensure this matter does not become a party-political matter and that the UK Government commits to providing the Welsh Government full funding for all necessary works to make schools in Wales safe.

The people of Wales and the whole United Kingdom are tired of politicians and opposition Governments wasting time blaming each other, and to be frank, they deserve better too, especially on matters like this.

Students in Wales are already at a significant disadvantage, and I urge you in the strongest possible terms to work collaboratively with the UK Government, do not play party politics, accept any help that is offered and ensure all funding made available to you is taken and that you ring-fence it for fixing this problem.

I have written to the Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan to set out the same position and urge her and the UK Government to work closely with the Welsh Government counterparts.

We must start rebuilding trust first and foremost in our schools and public buildings, but also in ourselves.

I look forward to your response.

With best wishes,

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rob Roberts', written over a faint, illegible typed name.