

Rob Roberts MP
Member of Parliament for Delyn



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

RR16005

The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP
Secretary of State for Education

(SENT BY EMAIL)

5 September 2023

Dear Secretary of State

RE: Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete in Wales

You will be acutely aware the education of our children and young people is crucially important for the growth of the UK's 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.

Secretary of State, I would like to thank you for your response to my intervention on Monday afternoon in the Chamber. However, I feel your response completely missed the point that I was making. 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.

The people of 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 disadvantage to their peers in England simply because the Welsh Labour Government are responsible for education here. In the strongest of terms, I urge you and the UK Government not to duck your responsibility. Do not look for blame in others. Work collaboratively with your devolved counterparts and ensure the necessary funding is available to all councils across England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

I will write to the Education Minister in Wales, Jeremy Miles MS, to set out the same position and urge him and the Welsh Government to work closely with the UK Government.

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

I look forward to your response.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rob Roberts', written over a horizontal line.

Rob Roberts MP