

Reference: FOI-1665

Request:

An email was sent from the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Department of Education on December 5 2018 to all local authorities to “draw attention” to a “building failure” involving a property constructed with RAAC. It suggested steps that local authorities should take the following steps:

“(1) identify any properties constructed using Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and validate the potential risk appropriately
(2) consider and monitor the possible impact of reduced maintenance regimes on the condition of your property portfolio, in particular where RAAC is used.”

1. a) Please disclose any action taken and/or findings made as a result of this email regarding point 1. This could include any surveys, studies or reports commissioned to identify properties constructed using RAAC and their results, including which properties were found to contain RAAC, and the potential risk that was assessed.

b) Please disclose any action taken and/or findings made as a result of this email regarding point 2. This could include any buildings in your property portfolio that you identified as having been built with RAAC that had “reduced maintenance regimes”.
2. Please disclose copies of any reports, surveys, briefings or studies concerning the presence of RAAC in your property portfolio after this email from December 5 2018.
3. If you replied to this email from the LGA, or forwarded it to another member of staff internally, please disclose the subsequent email chains.

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4. Please disclose any other actions taken as a result of this email, if not included above.

Response:

1. a) The Authority can only respond in relation to maintained schools for which they have maintenance responsibility. Academy Schools within the Borough are responsible for their own building maintenance. For information relating to Academy school buildings, the request will need to be redirected to the individual school.

Based on the Government Guidance, 7 schools were fully surveyed to determine if RAAC was present.

- b) RAAC was not identified in any of the 7 schools.
2. Not applicable
3. Information not held. Officers responsible for the school estate at that time have now left the Authority and all email accounts deleted after 30 days as per the protocol for any employee leaving the Authority. At that time, the Authority also had a Joint Venture, Keir North Tyneside Limited (KNT), with Kier Services Limited who were the nominated construction partner. This Joint Venture ended in March 2019 and all KNT email accounts have also since been deleted.
4. Other than the surveys noted above, no further action was taken with the exception of one resurvey in 2023, which reaffirmed that there was no RAAC present.

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