

Chief Executive's Office

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Our Ref: AB/AW.

18 May 2017.

James Dornan MSP
Convener
Education Skills Committee
T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Dornan

Education Skills Committee Inquiry on school buildings across Scotland

In reference to your letter dated 15 May 2017 regarding the Education Skills Committee Inquiry on School buildings across Scotland and the questions raised therein. The responses to your queries are provided below.

1. Inspection and remedial work of the current estate since January 2016

To What Extent

- has the school estate been inspected;
 - Orkney Islands Council reviews their school estate as part of annual asset management. In light of the Cole report a desk top exercise was undertaken on all the school estate to review the construction methods used for the school estate. No areas of concern were raised as the Council generally used its own staff for design and site supervision. The Schools Investment Programme was a Design, Build and Hard FM contract for the replacement of two schools and a Halls of Residence, however Orkney Islands Council altered the contract to ensure that a Clerk of Works was utilised for the duration of the construction works, this ensured that construction complied with the specification.
- have faults been identified;
 - No faults within the construction has been identified.
- has remedial work been undertaken and the impact of this?
 - No remedial works have been undertaken.

2. Quality Assurance Practices

- How quality assurance is undertaken on current capital projects on the school estate;

- Orkney Islands Council, have qualified staff project managing all the school estate capital projects and utilise experienced Clerk of Works on all projects to ensure that works comply with the design and specification.
- whether the quality assurance of school capital projects has been reassessed since 2016;
 - Orkney Islands Council have not reassessed the quality assurance since 2016, however the pre project information and consultation is being reviewed in line with the Audit Scotland review on Capital Investment.
- whether there are, or were, particular issues depending on the funding model and the lessons to be learned?
 - There have been no particular issues raised by the funding model, although the contractor on the Schools Investment Programme did replace the roof covering at Stromness Primary school due to issues with the longevity of the roof covering. The product installed was in compliance with relevant British Standards but did not cope with local weather conditions. The roof covering was replaced with a material which has a proven track record on the Islands.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Ian Rushbrook, Capital Programme Manager, Orkney Islands Council on 01856 873535 extension 2713.

Yours sincerely



Alistair Buchan
Chief Executive