

PROTECT
Our Ref: AC/LF
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Date: 9 June 2017



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

Environment Department
2 Spiersbridge Way
Spiersbridge Business Park
Thornliebank
East Renfrewshire
G46 8NG

Dear Mr Dornan MSP

Education and Skills Committee

I refer to your letter dated 15 May 2017 and would respond to your questions as follows:

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

I would advise that visual inspections were immediately carried out to all school premises to ensure there were no apparent structural defects or areas which may present risk. This was in addition to the usual inspections undertaken by maintenance officers as part of their duties.

Further intrusive surveys were commissioned for PFI schools to confirm the presence and adequacy of wall ties and head of wall restraint.

Identified issues were passed to structural engineers to design solutions and oversee the installation of those solutions to their satisfaction.

The corresponding remedial work was completed by the end of the Easter break 2017 and there was no impact upon the operation of the school involved.

For PPP schools supporting photographic records provided for internal construction details were not extensive enough to give complete assurance.

The PPP provider has therefore arranged for intrusive surveys at their schools with sign off by structural engineers. These surveys will be completed in July 2017.

With regard to the other recommendations within the Cole report an action plan is under development to cover the points raised which are relevant to the Council. This will assign responsibility for actions to specific parties for all future construction projects. The draft action plan will be completed by 16 June 2017 for consideration by the Council's Corporate Management Team which comprises the Chief Executive and Directors of the Council.

2. Quality Assurance Practices/.....cont'd



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Andrew Cahill, Director of Environment, 2 Spiersbridge Way, Thornliebank, G46 8NG

schools letter

2. Quality Assurance Practices

East Renfrewshire Council ensure quality assurance is undertaken with the appointment of an independent clerk of works to oversee each major capital project on the school estate. On smaller scale projects we utilise our own internal Property Officers to supervise the quality of works in conjunction with the project architect.

Since 2016 particular issues have been identified with the PPP/SFT funding model and its reliance upon self-regulation. East Renfrewshire Council has now (since the Edinburgh Schools report) implemented independent Clerk of Works inspections on all projects including Design, Build, Finance and Manage (DBFM) to provide an independent view on compliance with quality and specification.

I hope this is helpful but if you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew J Cahill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct loop at the end of the last name.

Andrew J Cahill
Director of Environment