
Assets, Transportation & Environment

Mr James Dornan MSP
Convener
Education and Skills Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Colin McCredie
Tel: 03451 555 555

Your Ref:
Our Ref: CMcC/KC

By email

9 June, 2017

Dear Mr Dornan,

I refer to your letter of 15 May 2017 to our Chief Executive, Mr Grimmond, which he has passed to me to respond.

Our responses to your numerated inquiries are as follows:

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

- *Has the school estate been inspected;*
 - Intrusive inspections were carried out on all PPP schools.
 - A risk assessment has been carried out on other schools with some intrusive inspections carried out where deemed appropriate.
 - There is an ongoing structural inspection regime which then addresses any issues requiring rectification to ensure the continued safety of the school and wider estate.
- *Have faults been identified;*
 - Some minor issues have been identified.
- *Has remedial work been undertaken and the impact of this?*
 - As a precaution, some minor rectification works have been carried out but these has not impacted upon the normal operation of the schools involved.

2. Quality Assurance Practices

- *How quality assurance is undertaken on current capital projects on the school estate;*
 - Inspection of the works is carried out by the Contract Administrators across all projects. On larger projects the CAs are supported by Clerks of Works (CoW) who are deployed depending upon the scale and complexity regardless of the procurement method/form of

contract, e.g. CoWs are/were deployed on our PPP and DBFM contracts, on our DBDA and traditional contract.

- *Whether the quality assurance of school capital projects has been reassessed since 2016;*
 - This has been reassessed and has provided reassurance that our approach of deploying CoWs on all projects other than minor works is correct. In general terms there is an increased awareness of the issues identified in the Cole Report resulting in heightened vigilance on site.

- *Whether there are, or were, particular issues depending on the funding model and the lessons to be learned?*
 - Many of the defects identified seem to be related to the speed of construction with an emphasis on the need to get projects 'wind and watertight' as early in the programme as possible allied to insufficient supervision. In addition, certain forms of construction require a higher degree of workmanship accuracy and are not best suited to projects where early completion or a lighter approach to supervision is required. Fife Council has not sought to devolve responsibility for quality assurance to contractors and has retained a direct interest and control of compliance with the design, specification and all relevant standards.

I trust that this provides you with all of the information that you require at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Colin McCredie
Programme Manager BFF

CC Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive

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