

6 September 2023

Dear Deputy Minister

**RE: Recent investigatory work into the possible presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) at The National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth**

We write to inform you that the Library has been conducting preliminary investigatory work on concrete in the building. Following these investigations, it has been identified that it would be prudent to instigate further checks by a structural engineer on the roof of the book stacks located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Third Library Building. There is no public access to this part of the building. Staff offices located in the Third Library Building are not affected.

As a precautionary measure, the Book Stacks on Level 4 in the Third Library Building have been closed temporarily for staff. This is a temporary measure to allow experts carry out further work in the area at the beginning of next week. This means that a proportion of the Published Collections will be unavailable to users during this time. A structural engineer has been appointed to carry out their investigation on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

We will update you on the outcome of these additional checks when we will be able to confirm (or rule out) the presence of RAAC.

We note that the latest publicly available guidance from the Standing Committee on Structural Safety (SCOSS) dates from May 2019, and our current actions are in line with the existing SCOSS guidance. Welsh Government has this week confirmed that it is in urgent discussions with the UK Government on this matter and that new evidence has been highlighted; we also understand that Welsh Government is now part of the UK Cabinet Office's Cross Government RAAC Working Group. We would therefore appreciate it if your officials could share any new information provided by the RAAC Working Group as soon as it becomes available – including any guidance on what steps we should be taking and when.

Yours sincerely

Ashok Ahir, President

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Pedr ap Ilyd, Chief Executive and Librarian

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