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Councillor Miranda Radley
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Our Reference: 202400405880
Your Reference: RAAC in Residential Properties - Aberdeen

16 April 2024

Dear Councillor Radley,

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 March to the First Minister in relation to RAAC in residential properties. I am replying as the Minister with lead responsibility in this matter.

Firstly, I am grateful to you and your colleagues for the helpful engagement with myself and my officials regarding the re-homing programme for the affected residents in the Balnagask area. This will be an extremely worrying time for all those involved, but I am reassured by the comprehensive plan that Aberdeen City Council have put in place to support the affected households.

Following on from our recent discussions, I was delighted that we were able to work together to agree flexibility in the existing Ukraine Long Term Resettlement Fund (ULTRF) to allow 42 homes to be used for the alternative purpose of RAAC re-homing until the end of the year.

Thank you for sharing the correspondence between yourself and the Prime Minister. As you are aware, previously the Chancellor had committed to 'spend what is necessary' to deal with the issue of RAAC. However, no funding has been forthcoming, including in the recent budget. In addition, as the UK Government has failed to inflation-proof their capital budget, this has resulted in a nearly 9% real terms cut in our UK capital funding between 2023-24 and 2027-28. We will continue to call on this UK Government, and any future incoming UK Government, to commit to this funding as previously pledged. I am committed to working in partnership with you to ensure that Aberdeen City Council is able to deal with this issue effectively and to ensure that the affected households are supported appropriately.

I look forward to meeting with you in the near future, as your options appraisal progresses, to understand the next steps and options that are being considered.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot



Yours sincerely



PAUL MCLENNAN
Minister for Housing

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