



**UK RAAC Campaign Group**

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**20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

**Rt Hon John Swinney MSP**

First Minister of Scotland  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

**Màiri McAllan MSP**

Cabinet Secretary for Housing  
Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

**Open Letter**

**Subject: Urgent Review of Scottish Government Foreign Aid Commitments and Support for RAAC Homeowners**

Dear Ms McAllan and First Minister Swinney,

I write on behalf of thousands of Scottish homeowners affected by Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC), who face an unprecedented housing crisis. These residents are trapped in financial limbo — paying mortgages on unsafe properties, renting temporary accommodation, and watching their homes deteriorate — through no fault of their own. Many have contributed to the public purse for decades, often refraining from claiming benefits due to homeownership equity, yet they are now being denied adequate support for essential remedial work or offered only token compensation.

In a recent statement to the Scottish Parliament, Ms McAllan confirmed that there will be no dedicated Scottish Government fund to support RAAC homeowners, framing the issue as “a homeowners’ responsibility” and pointing to the UK Government as the only entity with flexibility to respond. While it is true that the origins of RAAC predate devolution and stem from UK-era housing policies such as Right to Buy, this cannot justify the Scottish Government’s abdication of responsibility. Housing safety and local government oversight are devolved matters, and it is within the Scottish Government’s remit to ensure that citizens are protected from structural risk.

Meanwhile, public attention has been drawn to the Scottish Government’s foreign aid commitments. Recent coverage has highlighted increased spending abroad — even as the UK Government has reduced its overseas aid budget — while thousands of Scottish homeowners face homelessness, bankruptcy, and the collapse of their homes. Many of these homeowners have paid taxes for decades, yet their urgent needs are being overlooked in favour of international commitments. While support for global development is commendable, fairness and responsibility begin at home.

I therefore call on the Scottish Government to urgently review its foreign aid commitments in light of the acute crisis faced by RAAC homeowners, and to ensure that Scottish taxpayers who have contributed to public funds for decades are not left bearing the burden of remedial works caused by historic government and local authority failures.

Furthermore, I request a formal meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and the First Minister to discuss:

- Immediate relief and rehousing support for displaced RAAC homeowners;
- Options for a dedicated Scottish RAAC fund to cover surveys, remediation, and stabilisation works;
- Transparency and representation for homeowners in any RAAC oversight or leadership body;
- Alignment of Scottish priorities with the urgent needs of citizens who have already contributed to the public purse.

It is essential that this meeting is a focused, private discussion between the UK RAAC Campaign Group Board and yourselves, led by homeowners, with the sole purpose of addressing real solutions rather than political optics or photo opportunities.

We hope that the Scottish Government will demonstrate the responsibility, transparency, and leadership that the citizens of Scotland deserve. The RAAC crisis is not simply a maintenance issue — it is a systemic failure with profound social and economic consequences. It is time for decisive action.

I look forward to your response and to arranging a date for this urgent discussion.

Yours Sincerely

*Wilson Chowdhry*

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