



PWYLLGOR IECHYD A DIOGELWCH HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	14 January 2025
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	Reinforced Autoclave Aerated Concrete (RAAC) Planks
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Andrew Carruthers, Chief Operating Officer
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Simon Day, Head of Operations

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)

Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)

Er Gwybodaeth/For Information

ADRODDIAD SCAA

SBAR REPORT

Sefyllfa / Situation

This report provides an update to this Committee following the previous report on 7 May 2024.

Cefndir / Background

Reinforced Autoclave Aerated Concrete (RAAC) is a material used in construction in many buildings between the 1960s and 1990s. Its presence has been confirmed in a range of National Health Service (NHS) properties across the United Kingdom (UK) and includes several properties in Wales.

All actions now being undertaken by the Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) are fully aligned to revised industry guidance which was updated in early 2023.

This new industry guidance is based on more intensive research which has shown that this material has a far lower structural loading capacity than other generic reinforced concrete products. Due to this fact, there is a risk of structural collapse should the product fail. The condition of RAAC Planks has been shown to deteriorate if water is present due to roof leaks etc, which can compromise the reinforcement bars contained within these planks.

As previously reported, we met with a Health & Safety Executive (HSE) inspector at WGH who raised a number of standard questions on how HDdUHB have approached the RAAC challenge. A significant amount of information has been supplied to the HSE and all questions fully responded to. In relation to RAAC, the HSE Inspector found appropriate surveys had been carried out, the condition of the RAAC assessed by competent persons and recommendations for remediation had been/were being implemented.

Asesiad / Assessment

Capital work is progressing well and to programme.

The capital delivery and expenditure in 2023/24 was successfully completed and signed off with Welsh Government (WG). The 2024/25 funding is fully agreed, and we meet regularly with WG/NHS Wales Shared Service Partnership (NWSSP) in refining spend profiles as the financial year progresses.

We are now delivering the 2024/25 programme as detailed below:

- Tender 1 (Outpatient Department (OPD) A) complete & (Kitchen) fully operational.
- Tender 2 (OPDB) completion by 20/12/2024.
- Tender 3 (Other G/F) completion by 28/02/2025.
- Tender 4 (Plant Room & OPD Roof) completion by 14/03/2025.

In addition, surveys of the whole HB estate freehold and leasehold portfolio was undertaken in 2023/24 to check for the presence of RAAC with specialist engineers Curtins. The report identified further area at Bronglais General Hospital (BGH) site i.e. 4 rogue planks. This exercise identified no further RAAC planks across the estate, other than previously reported at Withybush General Hospital (WGH) and BGH sites.

Following the decision to stand down the RAAC control group, a further decision was made on 14 November 2024 to stand down the Estates & Facilities Control group. To ensure the impact on Estates & Facilities is managed the responsibility all RAAC maintenance or issues will now be left with Operations Teams to manage as the normal daily business, checks and maintenance routines. All management of the Capital Schemes up to Mar 2025 and beyond into defects periods will now be managed as a normal capital project under the guidance of Design Team. This will include any engagement with local hospital management teams going forward.

It should be noted that the capital works and approved funding will only cover remediation repairs to Phase 1 and Phase 2 Planks (critical and high-risk respectively). Of note this work included a phased replacement of the flat roof covering above the Outpatients RAAC impacted roof. Further RAAC impacted roof replacements are being proposed to address all the flat roofs above RAAC and the main hospital roof.

The HDdUHB will continue to live with RAAC and be required to manage the risk posed by RAAC at its sites at WGH and BGH, until such time as the RAAC is removed. The 'Amber' risk planks and 'Green' risk planks will require regular inspection. In terms of ongoing inspections, the HDdUHB has commissioned Curtins to undertake re-inspections of the RAAC, initially on a 12 monthly cycle in line with the engineer's advice, this based on current national guidance. These surveys have commenced for the second floor Wards and will be concluded in 2024/25 and are scheduled for the remaining ground floor areas in 2025/26. The RAAC reinspection programme for 2024/25 is detailed below:

WGH RAAC: CURTINS RE-SURVEY INSPECTIONS SECOND FLOOR	235 days	Mon 22/04/24	Fri 14/03/25
Ward 9: Re-survey Inspections (Complete)	15 days	Mon 22/04/24	Fri 10/05/24
Ward 12: Re-survey Inspections (Complete)	20 days	Mon 20/05/24	Fri 14/06/24
Ward 7: Re-survey Inspections	15 days	Mon 18/11/24	Fri 06/12/24
Ward 10: Re-survey Inspections	25 days	Mon 09/12/24	Fri 10/01/25
Ward 8: Re-survey Inspections	15 days	Mon 13/01/25	Fri 31/01/25
Ward 11: Re-survey Inspections & Hoist Installation Work	30 days	Mon 03/02/25	Fri 14/03/25

In terms of future frequency of re-inspections these will be determined by guidance and the outcomes of the current surveys, but with scope to move to 2 – 3 yearly cycles of survey. This decision will be informed by the engineers' recommendations.

The funding needed to support this programme both in 2024/25 and 2025/26 has been submitted within financial plans for the Facilities Directorate. The annual reinspection charges will be in the order of £150k in 2024/25 and £150k 2025/26, plus additional maintenance costs to manage RAAC.

In addition to the above remediation work and future inspections the HDdUHB has now also established what changes are necessary to our normal maintenance works undertaken at WGH and BGH sites. The maintenance team have established control measures to restrict and have secured access to RAAC roof areas, RAAC risk identified on PPM and as part of the dynamic risk assessment process ensures the RAAC risk is identified and managed via permit and officer control in line with the plans and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). In addition, undertaking further measures around gutter cleaning, bespoke staff RAAC training and development of standard operating procedures and 3D models to manage access and identify marked walkways. Control measures are to be reviewed following the install of walkways systems to RAAC roofs as part of the tender 4 package to replace the Outpatients flat roof covering.

Summary

As noted above, the HDdUHB, through WG support, has undertaken extensive measures to ensure the risk posed by RAAC is as safe as it can be through the current works programme, reinspection surveys and established operating procedures.

The re-inspection programme continues to impact our clinical service delivery, with a need to close our wards and ground floor accommodation to arrange works and re-inspections. This financial year we are re-inspecting the 6 wards, meaning a full or partial ward closure a month at the time.

In terms of living with RAAC, it is worth highlighting that from industry and engineers feedback RAAC planks have surpassed their intended life expectancy (c. 30 years) and deteriorate with age (nearing 50 years in age at WGH) and the risk of significant failure increases with thermal and water exposure. This represents an ongoing risk at WGH site where there are significant water leakage issues with frequent failures in the main hospital roof and flat roofs. As noted, the Outpatients roof will be replaced in the current financial year, and future bids will be made to Estates Funding Advisory Board (EFAB) 3 Welsh Government funding on the remaining flat roofs above RAAC. The main roof project is subject to the Business Continuity & Major Infrastructure programme funding, a current high-risk matter for the HDdUHB to address with frequent and ongoing leaks.

This position cannot be sustained longer term so through the HBs strategic plans and continued discussions with WG there will need to an ongoing discussion to remove the planks at some stage. This is to ensure we minimise the impact on our clinical delivery, financial pressure and mitigate the risk of a future failure of RAAC. It is of note that the strategy in NHS England is to remove RAAC by 2035, with target investments being prioritised to hospitals where RAAC is present.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Health and Safety Committee is asked to:

- **NOTE** the support funding from Welsh Government for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Financial Years and the delivery programme of these works.

- **NOTE** the ongoing surveys of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Planks areas in the future and the expectation of further deterioration and further investment being necessary.
- **NOTE** that further updates will be presented at future Health and Safety Committee meetings.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau) Objectives: (must be completed)	
Committee ToR Reference: Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor:	2.4: Provide support to the Board in its role of scrutinising performance and assurance on overall performance and delivery against Health Board plans and objectives, including delivery of key targets, giving early warning on potential performance issues and making recommendations for action to continuously improve the performance of the organisation and, as required, focus in detail on specific issues where performance is showing deterioration or there are issues of concern. 2.6: Seek assurance on the management of principal risks within the Board Assurance Framework (BAF) and Corporate Risk Register (CRR) allocated to the Committee and provide assurance to the Board that risks are being managed effectively and report any areas of significant concern e.g. where risk tolerance is exceeded, lack of timely action.
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	1382 1699 1707
Galluogwyr Ansawdd: Enablers of Quality: Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	Not Applicable 6. All Apply
Parthau Ansawdd: Domains of Quality Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	2.1 Managing Risk and Promoting Health and Safety Governance, Leadership & Accountability
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	4. The best health and wellbeing for our individuals, families and communities
Amcanion Cynllunio Planning Objectives	5a Estates Strategies

Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2021-2022	10. Not Applicable
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Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:	
Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	Within the report
Rhestr Termau: Glossary of Terms:	Within the report
Partion / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Pwyllgor Ansawdd Iechyd a Diogelwch: Parties / Committees consulted prior to Health and Safety Committee:	Pwyllgor Datblygu Strategol a Chyflenwi Gweithredol / Strategic Development and Operational Delivery Committee

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	Capital funding required to deliver the survey programme
Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	Direct Impact on patient Environment. Ward decant being arranged to maintain capacity. Some risk that it will be challenging to maintain capacity dependent on the outcome of the survey findings
Gweithlu: Workforce:	Staffing impacts being mapped out by operational site teams with full HR support.
Risg: Risk:	The risk is identified on the corporate risk register. Targeted meetings being arranged to manage the programme, to include development of project specific risk register.
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	Not applicable
Enw Da: Reputational:	High potential for media and political interest. Communication team supporting the programme.
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	Not applicable
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	Not applicable