



PQ280449/2009

Diana Johnson MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0870 0012345 dcsf.ministers@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

Chris Grayling MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

24 March 2010

Dear Chris

My Department recently replied to 8 written Parliamentary Questions from you on the number of children injured on school premises in assaults involving a range of weapons (PQs ref: 317669, 671, 674, 677, 678, 680, 682, 683). Neither this Department nor the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) record the cause of injuries sustained in schools, so we could not provide the information you requested.

When we asked the HSE to look into the information that they could provide, they identified a significant error in information provided for a PQ answer to Bob Spink MP in June 2009 (ref 280449). Though his question was different to yours in that he asked about admissions to hospital of children injured in accidents in school, it is possible that you or your researchers may have considered the information provided to him. I therefore wish to draw to your attention the error in the answer to him and our correction thereof.

The information provided in our answer last year showed between 77 and 147 children taken to hospital from accidents in school each year. We now realise that those numbers were significantly under-stated. HSE officials have realised that they made an error in coding the request for information from their electronic records: instead of asking for information relating to children aged from one to eighteen, they asked for information on children aged one and eighteen, thereby excluding data relating to those aged between two and seventeen. HSE has taken note of the error in order to review how to avoid similar errors in future.



department for
children, schools and families

I have written to Bob Spink to advise him of the error and provide the correct information, and we have taken steps to get the Hansard record amended. The information in the tables below, provided by the HSE, sets out the numbers of children in Great Britain taken to hospital following accidents in school.

Injuries to pupils/students¹ aged 1 to 18 years, reported to all enforcing authorities², 2003/04 - 2007/08³

Fatal injuries

Month	Year					Total
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	
April	-	-	-	-	-	-
May	-	-	-	-	-	-
June	1	-	-	-	-	1
July	-	1	-	-	-	1
August	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	-	-	-	1	-	1
October	-	-	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	1	-	-	1
December	1	-	2	-	-	3
January	-	-	-	-	-	-
February	-	1	-	-	-	1
March	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	2	2	3	2	-	9

Non-fatal injuries

Month	Year					Total
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	
April	134	150	203	294	353	1,134
May	171	257	297	544	554	1,823
June	297	225	295	605	522	1,944
July	179	168	185	345	333	1,210
August	25	37	29	40	50	181
September	226	290	301	758	714	2,289
October	247	245	304	722	828	2,346
November	259	327	671	848	1,005	3,110
December	167	158	406	453	504	1,688
January	236	264	626	719	800	2,645
February	220	211	521	549	664	2,165
March	372	242	827	829	708	2,978
Total	2,533	2,574	4,665	6,706	7,035	23,513

¹ Identified by Standard Occupational Classification (SOC2000) code 0002 'Student'.

² Injuries are reported and defined under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995. These include injuries to employees, self-employed people and members of the public (including students). The information available under RIDDOR 95 includes two categories of severity for members of the public: fatal injuries and non-fatal injuries that cause a person to be taken from the site of the accident to hospital.

³ The annual basis is the planning year 1 April to 31 March.

Once again, I apologise for the error in this answer.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Diana Johnson', with a large initial 'D' and a long horizontal flourish.

DIANA JOHNSON MP