

56026 Health and Safety Issues in Primary and Secondary Schools

Concerning all primary and secondary schools in your local authority area between 1 July 2023 and 1 July 2025, I would greatly appreciate it if you could provide the number of health and safety-related complaints (specifically issues relating to the physical buildings or school premises such as asbestos, heating, infestations, etc.), along with the primary reason cited for these complaints.

- Our central Health and Safety database mostly records work-related incidents, accidents and near misses rather than complaints, so cannot provide data related to the state of the buildings.
- Our Facilities Management team have carried out searches of their records. Between 1st July 2023 and 1st July 2025, a total of 45 schools submitted 56 health and safety-related complaints. The most common concerns related to heating, which accounts for 25 reports (6 in 2023, 9 in 2024, and 10 in 2025). Other frequent issues include drainage and flooding (3 reports in 2024), asbestos (2 reports in 2024), and various door-related problems, such as doors failing to lock, slamming, or sensor malfunctions. Additional complaints involve pest infestations (fleas), lighting issues (insufficient lighting or light pollution), water temperature concerns (hot water, hot pool water, or lack of water in classrooms), ventilation problems (windows not opening or ventilation system failures), and safety hazards like sharp edges on metal gates.
- Between 1 July 2023 and 1 July 2025, the Education service received 36 Health and Safety complaints (Stage 1 and Stage 2). These related to food safety, personal safety, health, road safety and fire safety.

An additional 5 property complaints were received with regards to wheelchair access, building adaptation and lighting.

There has been no complaint received with regards to asbestos, heating or infestation.

- Our Pest Control team hold records of Pest Control requests from schools which may or may not be deemed an 'infestation'. Their records relate to the whole school premises, including the grounds. They are unable to identify reports that only relate specifically to the school buildings. The number of callouts to schools are as follows:

2023/24 – 401

2024/25 – 374

2025 Quarter 1 - 104