

Active Matters Response to Freedom of Information Request (Received 25 / 04/ 18):

Whilst we are grateful for the reply provided by **Celia Kavanagh** (PE & School Sport Team, Department for Education), its content provides detail that should greatly concern the tax-paying general public given that Government clearly hasn't pursued any meaningful monitoring of the Primary PE and Sports (PESS) Premium to date:

'Following a search of the Department's paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not available. The Department has not requested that any school pay back the whole or any part of the Premium and misuse of the premium has not been reported.'

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/primary_pe_and_sports_premium_sp

Our organisation has been made aware for some time that misuse of the Premium **has been** reported to the DfE given feedback received from APPG members as well as from contributors to our ongoing monitoring of the strategy. As an example, the following has been brought to our attention: minutes from meetings linked to the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group re: Fit and Healthy Childhood; members' own meetings with local MPs and Councillors as well as data evidence previously submitted to the Department for Education.

Furthermore, contributors have correctly highlighted the ease of scrutinising Ofsted performance with the strategy – we have subsequently come to realise how it is so straight forward for anybody to cross reference HMI's final report analysis of a school's performance with the detail contained within the required statutory evidence that the school in question must have online. Having said this, we should all be concerned by the received reported instances of schools who have made the decision to post fictitious reports online and that such practice is yet to be tackled effectively by both DfE and HMI.

The DfE's response to the F.O.I request also refers to:

'Ofsted's survey of 22 schools previously identified as performing well in PE highlighted that schools may benefit from clearer guidance on how to best use the funding.'

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-pe-and-sport-premium-for-primary-schools>

The findings of this survey were published on 17th October 2014 with no follow up investigation made to date regarding the report's key recommendations as well as the opportunity to highlight other areas of concern.

We are still receiving worrying feedback from members; coaches; PE subject leaders and even head teachers regarding extensive ongoing malpractice with the PESS Premium that we will continue to report upon. We should add that influential national bodies who continue to work alongside Government in terms of policy related to active healthy

lifestyles have likewise been informed of our findings such as UK Active; Youth Sport Trust and Association for Physical Education.

What we have therefore discovered in recent months leads us to concur with the following recommendations of the APPG for Fit and Healthy Childhood that Government carries out the following action points as a matter of urgency:

1. A comprehensive review of the Primary Physical Education and Sport Premium including Ofsted inspection procedure, differentiated guidance and outcomes for physical activity, teacher development, pupil attainment and participation in competition and sport
2. A holistic approach to nutrition and physical activity to be embedded within a whole-school policy for all school-aged children

Link: https://royalpa.files.wordpress.com/2018/03/fhc_appg_inequalitiesreportmarch2018.pdf

If The Government chooses to ignore such action then we certainly expect the minimum of a swift, effective response to the closing of reported loopholes and the reported ways and means of abusing the funding.

Given that nearly £3bn of tax payers' money has been spent on school sports to date since 2000, we believe that it is shocking that both past and present national strategies have not made the expected impact by now especially when confronted with the reality of ever increasing levels in childhood obesity - the UK is now the most overweight nation in Western Europe and at what preventable cost to a currently ailing National Health Service?