



Department
for Education

Technical Note

Results of an investigation into the quality of statistics on unlawful/lawful infant class sizes

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Theme	Children, Education and Skills
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1. Introduction

Statistics on infant classes are published annually each June in the statistical first release “Schools, pupils and their characteristics”. These statistics are produced using data collected from local authorities and schools as a part of, and alongside, the January school census.

What do we count as an infant class?

Our statistics include classes listed on the school census as either containing reception year or key stage 1 pupils and one teacher. Legislation specifies that infant class size limits apply only to ordinary teaching sessions conducted by single school teachers, this means that classes with no teachers, or more than one teacher, are not included.

The legislation applies only to classes containing pupils, the majority of whom, will attain the age of five, six or seven during the course of the school year. Therefore mixed classes are not included, for example mixes of nursery and reception pupils, or key stage 1 and 2 pupils.

In this note, any infant class containing more than 30 pupils is termed a ‘large infant class’.

The [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#) limits the size of an infant class to 30 pupils per school teacher. An infant class is one in which the majority of children will reach the age of 5, 6 or 7 during the school year i.e. reception, year 1 and year 2.

[The School Admissions \(Infant Class Sizes\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) prescribe certain limited circumstances in which pupils may be admitted as lawful exceptions to the infant class size limit of 30 for one-teacher classes. This means that a class of, for example, 32 pupils is

lawful if two or more of those pupils have been admitted under lawful exceptions. If two or fewer have been admitted as lawful exceptions then the class is termed 'unlawful'.

Since 2010, there has been an increasing primary pupil population and there has been an associated increase in the number of infant classes from 53,887 in 2010 to 58,256 in 2014 and, in some areas, this has led to infant class sizes larger than the statutory size of 30; the number of infant classes larger than 30 has risen from 995 in 2010 to 2,985 in 2014.

The department has published figures on large infant class sizes, net of exempted pupils, as a data series called "Unlawful infant classes" since 2006 following a previous review of the presentation of infant class size statistics. This enables users of the statistics to understand how many, and what proportion, of the total number of large infant classes are defined as unlawful or lawful and how many pupils are in those classes.

The mechanism for collecting these data has remained largely unchanged for a number of years and is described in section 3 of this document.

The statistics on unlawful infant classes and excepted pupils as originally published in June 2014 are shown in tables 1 and 2 below. This technical note explains the results of our review into the quality of these statistics. This sets out the information on quality which lead to the Head of Profession for Statistics writing to the UK Statistics Authority recommending that these statistics have their National Statistics status removed due to the quality concerns highlighted. The UK Statistics Authority have confirmed that future publications of unlawful infant class size statistics should not be designated as National Statistics pending further improvements and a re-assessment by the Authority.

The unlawfully large class size statistics are a small part of the broader set of school class size statistics. Class size statistics unaffected by this issue and which retain National Statistics status are:

average infant class sizes;

number of infant classes of sizes 1-30, 31 or more;

number of infant pupils in classes of size 1-30, 31 or more;

number of infant pupils in classes of 31 or more with 'excepted activity'; and

all class size statistics for key stage 2 and the split by primary/secondary schools.

Table 1: State-funded schools: Key stage 1 classes in England (1) – January each year 2006 to 2014 [as originally published in 'Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2014']

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
	State-funded primary schools (2)									All state-funded schools
KEY STAGE 1 CLASSES (3)										
<u>Large infant classes (classes of 31 or more pupils)</u>										
Percentage of all classes										
of which:										
Lawfully large classes with 'excepted' pupils (4)										
Number of classes	510	590	530	612	857	1,061	1,301	2,074	2,436	2,443
Percentage of all classes	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.6	1.9	2.3	3.7	4.2	4.2
Unlawfully large classes (5)										
Number of classes	240	130	200	276	138	311	207	225	549	552
Percentage of all classes	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.9
Percentage of all pupils										
of which in:										
Lawfully large classes with 'excepted' pupils (4)										
Number of pupils	16,080	18,510	16,430	19,130	26,795	33,135	40,690	64,815	76,075	76,300
Percentage of all pupils	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.9	2.2	2.7	4.2	4.8	4.8
Unlawfully large classes (5)										
Number of pupils	7,780	4,280	6,380	8,835	4,475	9,935	6,595	7,125	17,270	17,360
Percentage of all pupils	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	1.1	1.1

Source: School Census

1. One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January. Key stage as recorded by the school, classes with missing key stage information are not included unless they are reception year group classes.
2. Includes middle schools as deemed. Includes all primary academies, including free schools.
3. Includes reception classes.
4. Includes only those classes where there are pupils who have been admitted as exceptions making the class size within the legal limit of 30 pupils or less. This document explains why we do not believe these figures to be reliable.
5. Classes of 31 or more, excluding those large classes engaged in an excepted activity.

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.

Table 2: State-funded schools: Key stage 1: One teacher classes and excepted pupils in England (1,2) – January 2014 [as originally published in 'Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2014']

	State-funded primary schools (3)	All state-funded schools
Total number of lawfully large classes with excepted pupils	2,436	2,443
Total number of lawfully large classes engaged in an excepted activity (4)	0	0
Total number of unlawfully large classes (4)(5)(6)	549	552
Number of excepted pupils (7)		
admitted outside normal admissions round with statements of special educational needs specifying a school	221	221
looked after or previously looked after admitted outside normal admission round	326	326
admitted, after initial allocation of places, because of a procedural error made by the admission authority or local authority in the original application process	181	181
admitted after an independent appeals panel upholds an appeal	895	907
who move into the area outside the normal admissions round for whom there is no other available school within reasonable distance (the Local Authority has to confirm that the child qualifies under this category)	1,034	1,036
who are children of UK service personnel admitted outside the normal admissions round	93	94
whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is admitted otherwise than as an excepted pupil	172	172
with special educational needs who are normally taught in an special educational needs unit attached to the school, or registered at a special school, who attend some infant classes within the mainstream school	118	119

Source: School Census

1. One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January. Key stage as recorded by the school, classes with missing key stage information are not included unless they are reception year group classes.
2. Includes reception classes.
3. Includes middle schools as deemed. Includes all primary academies, including free schools.
4. A revision to the guidance issued to schools means that information on classes engaged in an excepted activity should not be provided (information should be provided on the next ordinary teaching session).
5. Infant classes with 31 or more pupils without excepted pupils and not engaged in excepted activity. This document explains why we do not believe these figures to be reliable.
6. May include some classes with excepted pupils but the class size still exceeds the legal limit of 30 pupils or less.
7. These figures can include excepted pupils that are in a class that remains unlawfully large after excepted pupils are taken into account. The presentation of these figures has been altered slightly this year to improve their interpretation, but the numbers presented for state-funded primary schools are consistent with those published in 2013.

Table 3: State-funded primary schools (1,2): Classes as taught by key stage (1,2) – January 2014 by local authority area and region in England [as originally published in 'Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2014']

LA Code			Classes taught by 1 teacher					
			Key stage 1 (4)					
			Lawfully large classes with excepted pupils		Lawfully large classes with excepted activity		Unlawfully large classes	
No. of pupils	No. of classes	No. of pupils	No. of classes	No. of pupils	No. of classes			
ENGLAND (5)			76,075	2,436	0	0	17,270	549
NORTH EAST (5)			2,405	77	0	0	635	20
E06000005	841	Darlington	93	3	0	0	63	2
E06000047	840	Durham	279	9	0	0	64	2
E08000020	390	Gateshead	280	9	0	0	32	1
E06000001	805	Hartlepool	124	4	0	0	0	0
E06000002	806	Middlesbrough	186	6	0	0	0	0
E08000021	391	Newcastle upon Tyne	596	19	0	0	0	0
E08000022	392	North Tyneside	93	3	0	0	63	2
E06000048	929	Northumberland	125	4	0	0	0	0
E06000003	807	Redcar and Cleveland	31	1	0	0	0	0
E08000023	393	South Tyneside	93	3	0	0	190	6
E06000004	808	Stockton-on-Tees	224	7	0	0	32	1
E08000024	394	Sunderland	279	9	0	0	190	6
NORTH WEST (5)			12,045	385	0	0	2,510	79
E06000008	889	Blackburn with Darwen	0	0	0	0	0	0
E06000009	890	Blackpool	93	3	0	0	31	1
E08000001	350	Bolton	187	6	0	0	95	3
E08000002	351	Bury	217	7	0	0	95	3
E06000049	895	Cheshire East	564	18	0	0	0	0
E06000050	896	Cheshire West and Chester	404	13	0	0	63	2
E10000006	909	Cumbria	0	0	0	0	329	10
E06000006	876	Halton	0	0	0	0	64	2
E08000011	340	Knowsley	32	1	0	0	31	1
E10000017	888	Lancashire	1,432	46	0	0	106	3
E08000012	341	Liverpool	787	25	0	0	0	0
E08000003	352	Manchester	1,057	34	0	0	312	10
E08000004	353	Oldham	1,469	47	0	0	0	0
E08000005	354	Rochdale	344	11	0	0	34	1
E08000006	355	Salford	93	3	0	0	159	5
E08000014	343	Sefton	656	21	0	0	0	0
E08000013	342	St. Helens	186	6	0	0	0	0
E08000007	356	Stockport	1,194	38	0	0	31	1
E08000008	357	Tameside	1,649	52	0	0	31	1
E08000009	358	Trafford	530	17	0	0	0	0
E06000007	877	Warrington	186	6	0	0	717	23
E08000010	359	Wigan	465	15	0	0	224	7
E08000015	344	Wirral	501	16	0	0	188	6
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER (5)			13,290	424	0	0	1,690	53
E08000016	370	Barnsley	540	17	0	0	67	2
E08000032	380	Bradford	3,819	122	0	0	0	0
E08000033	381	Calderdale	405	13	0	0	0	0
E08000017	371	Doncaster	126	4	0	0	156	5
E06000011	811	East Riding of Yorkshire	443	14	0	0	125	4
E06000010	810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	856	27	0	0	135	4
E08000034	382	Kirklees	842	27	0	0	0	0

E08000035	383	Leeds	2,159	69	0	0	187	6
E06000012	812	North East Lincolnshire	62	2	0	0	32	1
E06000013	813	North Lincolnshire	31	1	0	0	31	1
E10000023	815	North Yorkshire	1,037	33	0	0	33	1
E08000018	372	Rotherham	342	11	0	0	422	13
E08000019	373	Sheffield	1,630	52	0	0	315	10
E08000036	384	Wakefield	715	23	0	0	188	6
E06000014	816	York	281	9	0	0	0	0
		EAST MIDLANDS (5)	5,955	190	0	0	3,670	118
E06000015	831	Derby	591	19	0	0	93	3
E10000007	830	Derbyshire	658	21	0	0	31	1
E06000016	856	Leicester	403	13	0	0	2,511	81
E10000018	855	Leicestershire	1,902	60	0	0	474	15
E10000019	925	Lincolnshire	249	8	0	0	434	14
E10000021	928	Northamptonshire	777	25	0	0	98	3
E06000018	892	Nottingham	191	6	0	0	0	0
E10000024	891	Nottinghamshire	1,184	38	0	0	0	0
E06000017	857	Rutland	0	0	0	0	31	1
		WEST MIDLANDS (5)	8,235	264	0	0	1,075	34
E08000025	330	Birmingham	1,213	39	0	0	355	11
E08000026	331	Coventry	186	6	0	0	32	1
E08000027	332	Dudley	217	7	0	0	62	2
E06000019	884	Herefordshire	250	8	0	0	0	0
E08000028	333	Sandwell	1,180	38	0	0	156	5
E06000051	893	Shropshire	190	6	0	0	0	0
E08000029	334	Solihull	563	18	0	0	0	0
E10000028	860	Staffordshire	844	27	0	0	32	1
E06000021	861	Stoke-on-Trent	910	29	0	0	126	4
E06000020	894	Telford and Wrekin	125	4	0	0	0	0
E08000030	335	Walsall	248	8	0	0	31	1
E10000031	937	Warwickshire	811	26	0	0	252	8
E08000031	336	Wolverhampton	1,000	32	0	0	0	0
E10000034	885	Worcestershire	498	16	0	0	31	1
		EAST OF ENGLAND (5)	5,885	189	0	0	1,820	58
E06000055	822	Bedford	187	6	0	0	31	1
E06000056	823	Central Bedfordshire	186	6	0	0	125	4
E10000003	873	Cambridgeshire	783	25	0	0	283	9
E10000012	881	Essex	1,987	64	0	0	248	8
E10000015	919	Hertfordshire	838	27	0	0	220	7
E06000032	821	Luton	93	3	0	0	0	0
E10000020	926	Norfolk	1,002	32	0	0	31	1
E06000031	874	Peterborough	217	7	0	0	312	10
E06000033	882	Southend-on-Sea	0	0	0	0	412	13
E10000029	935	Suffolk	375	12	0	0	62	2
E06000034	883	Thurrock	217	7	0	0	94	3
		LONDON (5)	13,110	421	0	0	2,685	86
		INNER LONDON (5)	995	32	0	0	905	29
E09000007	202	Camden	155	5	0	0	0	0
E09000001	201	City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0
E09000012	204	Hackney	31	1	0	0	155	5
E09000013	205	Hammersmith and Fulham	124	4	0	0	0	0
E09000014	309	Haringey	63	2	0	0	31	1
E09000019	206	Islington	186	6	0	0	31	1
E09000020	207	Kensington and Chelsea	31	1	0	0	94	3
E09000022	208	Lambeth	0	0	0	0	0	0
E09000023	209	Lewisham	31	1	0	0	498	16
E09000025	316	Newham	31	1	0	0	0	0
E09000028	210	Southwark	187	6	0	0	0	0
E09000030	211	Tower Hamlets	31	1	0	0	0	0

E09000032	212	Wandsworth	124	4	0	0	96	3
E09000033	213	Westminster	0	0	0	0	0	0
		OUTER LONDON (5)	12,115	389	0	0	1,780	57
E09000002	301	Barking and Dagenham	155	5	0	0	127	4
E09000003	302	Barnet	1,280	41	0	0	63	2
E09000004	303	Bexley	248	8	0	0	31	1
E09000005	304	Brent	934	30	0	0	0	0
E09000006	305	Bromley	843	27	0	0	346	11
E09000008	306	Croydon	93	3	0	0	189	6
E09000009	307	Ealing	312	10	0	0	0	0
E09000010	308	Enfield	155	5	0	0	279	9
E09000011	203	Greenwich	62	2	0	0	186	6
E09000015	310	Harrow	3,269	105	0	0	63	2
E09000016	311	Havering	1,089	35	0	0	0	0
E09000017	312	Hillingdon	808	26	0	0	62	2
E09000018	313	Hounslow	189	6	0	0	0	0
E09000021	314	Kingston upon Thames	467	15	0	0	63	2
E09000024	315	Merton	62	2	0	0	0	0
E09000026	317	Redbridge	1,086	35	0	0	187	6
E09000027	318	Richmond upon Thames	527	17	0	0	31	1
E09000029	319	Sutton	62	2	0	0	93	3
E09000031	320	Waltham Forest	473	15	0	0	62	2
		SOUTH EAST (5)	10,370	333	0	0	2,335	74
E06000036	867	Bracknell Forest	31	1	0	0	31	1
E06000043	846	Brighton and Hove	155	5	0	0	0	0
E10000002	825	Buckinghamshire	590	19	0	0	155	5
E10000011	845	East Sussex	752	24	0	0	342	11
E10000014	850	Hampshire	1,707	55	0	0	0	0
E06000046	921	Isle of Wight	187	6	0	0	0	0
E10000016	886	Kent	2,370	76	0	0	348	11
E06000035	887	Medway	62	2	0	0	257	8
E06000042	826	Milton Keynes	217	7	0	0	0	0
E10000025	931	Oxfordshire	532	17	0	0	31	1
E06000044	851	Portsmouth	186	6	0	0	31	1
E06000038	870	Reading	0	0	0	0	0	0
E06000039	871	Slough	186	6	0	0	0	0
E06000045	852	Southampton	93	3	0	0	126	4
E10000030	936	Surrey	1,120	36	0	0	610	19
E06000037	869	West Berkshire	126	4	0	0	156	5
E10000032	938	West Sussex	1,559	50	0	0	188	6
E06000040	868	Windsor and Maidenhead	220	7	0	0	62	2
E06000041	872	Wokingham	279	9	0	0	0	0
		SOUTH WEST (5)	4,785	153	0	0	840	27
E06000022	800	Bath and North East Somerset	93	3	0	0	155	5
E06000028	837	Bournemouth	124	4	0	0	31	1
E06000023	801	Bristol, City of	310	10	0	0	31	1
E06000052	908	Cornwall	251	8	0	0	31	1
E10000008	878	Devon	342	11	0	0	93	3
E10000009	835	Dorset	563	18	0	0	0	0
E10000013	916	Gloucestershire	1,032	33	0	0	220	7
E06000053	420	Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0
E06000024	802	North Somerset	31	1	0	0	0	0
E06000026	879	Plymouth	651	21	0	0	0	0
E06000029	836	Poole	0	0	0	0	0	0
E10000027	933	Somerset	632	20	0	0	32	1
E06000025	803	South Gloucestershire	94	3	0	0	31	1
E06000030	866	Swindon	377	12	0	0	0	0
E06000027	880	Torbay	31	1	0	0	31	1
E06000054	865	Wiltshire	253	8	0	0	187	6

Source: School Census

1. Includes middle/all through schools as deemed.
 2. Includes all primary academies, including free schools.
 3. Classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
 4. Includes reception classes.
 5. National, regional and totals of pupil numbers across all classes have been rounded to the nearest 5.
- There may be discrepancies between totals and the sum of constituent parts.
- . Not applicable

2. Concerns over unlawful infant class size data quality

Following publication of the infant class size statistics in June 2014 some users, including local authorities, raised concerns about the number of unlawful infant classes. Further analysis of the data on unlawfully large infant classes showed that nine local authority areas had reported substantial increases in the number of unlawfully large infant classes since the previous year.

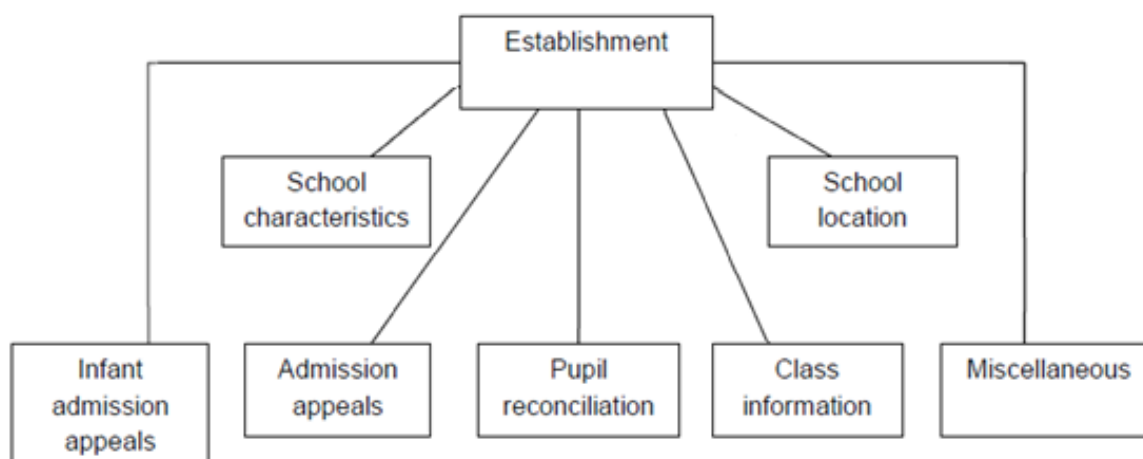
The department contacted these local authorities and all indicated that they believed some of the data submitted from their authority was inaccurate. In some instances lawful exceptions applied but this had not been indicated during the data collection by appropriately providing a number of pupils under each of the statutory exception reasons.

Under the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#), published statistics must satisfy quality dimensions including accuracy, comparability, coherence and meeting user need. Because of our concern over the accuracy of the statistics, we withdrew statistics on unlawful/lawful infant classes in July 2014 pending further investigation with the local authorities and schools that had provided data indicating they had unlawfully large infant classes. We advertised the removal of these statistics on gov.uk and in a revised version of the statistical release to highlight this change to users.

3. How are infant class size and exceptions data collected

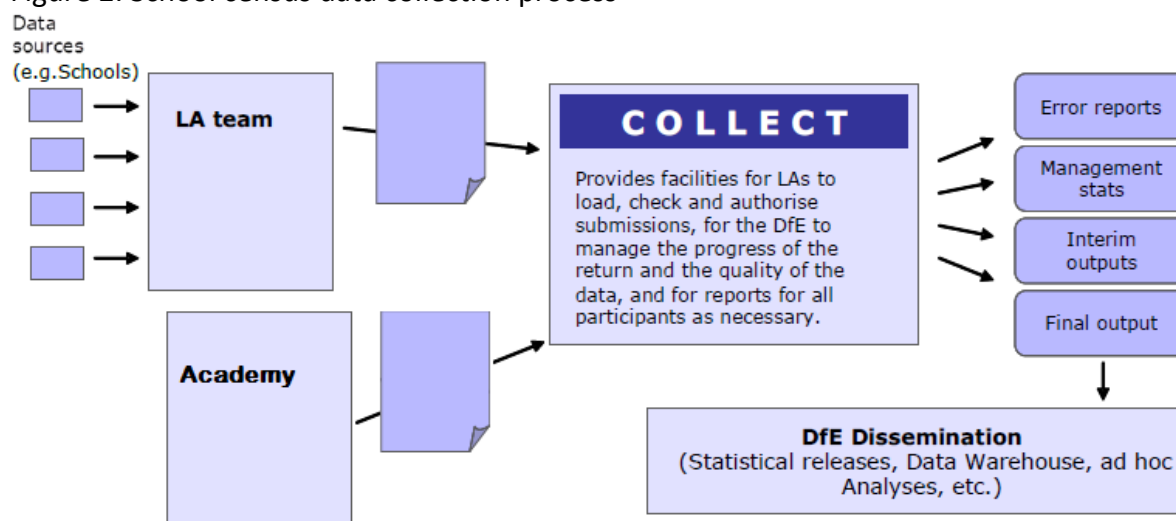
Statistics on the number of teachers and pupils in each class are collected as a part of the class information module of the January school census. Figure 1 shows an outline of the structure of information collected within the school census. An example of the guidance [given to schools is available on our website](#).

Figure 1: Structure of school modules within school census



The process for collecting school census data is shown in figure 2, a key aspect of this process is that for local authority maintained schools a local authority team acts as an intermediary loading data into the DfE's data collection system ("COLLECT"), on behalf of their schools. Academies (including free schools, university technical colleges and studio schools) are responsible for loading their data into COLLECT directly.

Figure 2: School census data collection process



While class information is a separate element of school census to the pupil level data there is cross-validation of the total numbers of pupils.

Information on the number of pupils who are exceptions under The School Admissions (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations 2012 is not collected directly via the school census.

Information on pupils who are exceptions is requested from a data provider once their school census data has been submitted to the COLLECT system. Within COLLECT, automated prompts are in place such that when a data provider submits an unlawfully large class they are alerted to that fact and prompted to enter exception reasons if applicable. If sufficient pupils in the class are excepted the class is counted as lawful.

This means that the onus on entering correct and accurate data on pupils who are exceptions rests on local authorities for local authority maintained schools and the school themselves where the school is an academy (including free schools, UTCs and studio schools).

Local authorities and academies are then responsible for authorising the data they have submitted for DfE approval and publication.

4. Investigation into the quality of unlawful infant class size data

In September 2014 local authorities and schools whose original data had indicated unlawfully large infant classes were given the opportunity to check, and if necessary amend their data.

Of 79 LAs who were contacted, 73 responded. For academies, 52 out of 110 contacted responded. In summary:

Seven classes were changed from one teacher classes to two teacher classes

This removes these classes from the unlawful infant class statistics which only include one teacher classes.

The number of pupils was changed for eleven classes

This takes these classes to a size of 30 or below; this was due to pupils moving between classes. There was no overall change in the number of pupils at the school

The number of excepted pupils increased by 350 across 300 classes

These were primarily accounted for as children who move into the area outside the normal admissions round. The result of the substantial increase in exceptions here would be to significantly reduce the number of unlawfully large classes.

In determining the fitness-for-publication of this amended data we have borne in mind that any published statistics must meet the standards expected in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Some aspects of the amended data that have been collected raise doubts as to whether either the amended data or the 'original' school census data on unlawful infant class sizes can satisfy those quality dimensions.

4.1. There has been retrospective adjustment to class structures rather than exceptions in the amended data

The January school census is intended to capture a snapshot of schools, classes and pupils on the census day. There is a risk that the amended data collected in September represents a less accurate snapshot of that day than the data originally submitted. In particular some of the changes that have been made appear to alter class structures rather than providing information on excepted pupils that may have initially been omitted.

It is possible that the schools and local authorities made errors in their initial submissions and these are corrections but we had not expected changes such as this in this validation exercise.

4.2. The data collection process is not user-friendly and schools and local authorities have demonstrated a lack of understanding of the exception recording process

The data collection system allows users to attach notes to their returns. Some of these notes demonstrate a misunderstanding of the exception recording process.

In many cases users recognised the need to explain why these classes were larger than 30, but they did not record any valid exception reasons in COLLECT (in some cases notes about “fair access” were made, this is not one of the statutory exceptions). Given that these are not collected through the main data collection system but separately through the validation process, there is increased scope for confusion and omission by Local Authorities. The guidance was also found to be in need of improvement in this area.

The amended data shows that excepted pupil numbers increased by 350 across 300 classes, contributing to a reduction of almost 300 in the number of unlawfully large infant classes. The net result of this is that the overall number of unlawfully large infant classes suggested by the amended data is less than half the number that was originally published.

As a result we have concluded that we are unable to rely on the quality of either the original or the amended data.

4.3. The problem of under-reporting of exceptions is likely to have affected statistics in previous years

The first two points demonstrate issues with data collected this year in both the original collection and the amendments made in September. Whilst a similar exercise was not carried out in previous years we can use these findings to assess whether data in earlier years is likely to have been affected in a similar way.

If a local authority or academy recorded exceptions inaccurately in 2014 it is not unreasonable to assume that there was similar inaccuracy in their reporting in 2013 (since there were no changes to the data collection process.) The 53 local authorities and 84 academies that made changes to their data this year were responsible for 69 of the 225 unlawfully large classes in 2013.

This demonstrates substantial risk that the published statistics in earlier years were also inaccurate.

4.4. Conclusion

The department’s Head of Profession for Statistics has concluded that the statistics on unlawfully (and lawfully) large infant classes are not fit-for-purpose and has written to the UK Statistics Authority recommending they should be de-designated as National Statistics and removed from the main statistical first release. He has also set out an Action Plan for improving the quality of these statistics so they can be re-assessed for National Statistics status by the UK Statistics Authority as soon as possible. The remaining data on infant classes is unaffected and remains in the publication which retains National Statistics status.

5. Action to be taken to improve the quality of statistics on unlawfully (and lawfully) large infant classes

The Code of Practice requires that National Statistics have sufficient quality to provide fit-for-purpose information for users. Given the above quality concerns, which are sufficiently large as to prevent sound interpretation of this data, these statistics do not meet requirements of the Code of Practice.

However, user need remains as the department continues to require the collection and publication of data on unlawful infant classes.

Therefore, to improve the collection of statistics on unlawful class sizes the department has:

Strengthened guidance to [local authorities](#) and [academies](#) on returning excepted pupil counts

These provide much more detailed guidance on the process and importance of providing accurate information.

Improved the existing [infant class size validation document](#)

This document now explains more clearly how to provide data on infant class size exceptions and the importance of providing accurate data.

Introduced a new report in the COLLECT system

This report is designed to highlight to data providers all unlawfully large infant classes in the data they have submitted.

Publicly explained the issues with unlawful class size statistics in recent years

This technical note explains the reasons why we believe the data collected in recent years for unlawful infant class sizes is inaccurate.

During collection of the 2015 statistics on unlawful class sizes the department has:

Introduced additional checking and feedback to data providers

The department will contact data providers who have submitted data indicating unlawfully large infant classes to ask them to check that this information is correct.

6. Got a query? Like to give feedback?

If from the media Press Office News Desk, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT. 020 7783 8300

If non-media Infrastructure and Funding Directorate Analysis Division, Level 4, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT.

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Department for Education

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