

**PE1319/A**

**DUNDEE COUNCIL RESPONSE**

The situation regarding pupils signed by professional football clubs and the restrictions imposed on them by the clubs, has long been a contentious issue in physical education departments.

Pupils who are signed by professional clubs are not allowed to play football for their schools and are often 'threatened' with release if they do. I would question the legality of this and I feel that it is, at the very least, ethically questionable.

Pupils are also often actively discouraged from taking part in physical education lessons prior to games for their professional clubs and in many cases are banned from joining after school clubs for fear of injury.

These restrictions put undue pressure on pupils who are often so keen to become full time professionals that they are prepared to accept any sanctions which may be imposed on them by school departments.

It is widely recognised that for every 100 boys who sign for professional clubs whilst at school less than 5% will go on to become full time professionals.