



5 November 2010

Sir

Re: John Stapleton blog 'Apple bobbing ban is health and safety madness' (*Manchester Evening News* 4 November 2010)

Sensational stories like children being banned from apple bobbing because of fears of injury illustrate how widely misunderstood our health and safety laws are.

The public needs to be made more aware that a claim for compensation cannot be brought about for an everyday accident where no-one is to blame. Only when there is negligence can a claim be made. Event organisers should be made to feel confident that to ensure public safety they only have to take precautions which are reasonable.

The Government, in its current review of health and safety, is missing an opportunity to educate the public more about health and safety. Only a greater understanding can prevent further needless risk aversion without compromising safety. Accidents happen, but negligence is inexcusable.

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