

# Map of Elf and Safety Madness



There's no shortage of stories about ridiculous decisions taken wrongly in the name of **health and safety**. Last year the Government set up a panel of experts to challenge the absurd excuses that seem to be able to put a stop to almost any activity.

Since then, our expert panel has exposed more than 210 of these as myths. Now, for the first time, our regional analysis reveals who is reporting what across the UK.



Kids in Midlothian were forced to traipse hundreds of yards to use their new tree house, because the local council said building one on school land breached health and safety.



A sign on toilets in one library informed readers that library books were not allowed to be taken into the toilets - due to health and safety.



Filleting a fish at a Kenilworth fishmonger wasn't allowed for fear of causing a possible accident. Despite saying they offered a filleting service on their website, the shop said the fish the housewife had chosen was too slippery to cut.



A customer couldn't have his baguette cut in half because the company had banned knives on the premises.



Thirsty on his holidays, one man found his desire to make himself a cuppa was apparently too dangerous. His hotel had banned kettles in bedrooms for fear of injury.



Hopes of a milky coffee at a coffee shop in Sheffield were hampered when the barista ran out of semi-skimmed milk and refused to add full-cream for fear of breaking the "law".



One hotel banned toilet brushes from all of its en suite rooms because they claimed it breached health and safety legislation.



When a woman arrived at a racecourse prepared for bad weather with a parasol, she didn't dream of having it confiscated. But it didn't stop jobsworths taking it in the name of health and safety. They said it could be used as a weapon, although she could have it back if it rained.

## Worst health and safety clangers...

- ⊘ Kids ordered to wear goggles to play conkers
- ⊘ Office workers banned from putting up Christmas decorations
- ⊘ Hanging baskets banned in case people bump their heads on them
- ⊘ Graduates ordered not to throw their mortar boards in the air
- ⊘ Schoolchildren ordered to wear clip on ties in case they are choked by traditional neckwear
- ⊘ Park benches replaced because they are three inches too low
- ⊘ Candy floss on a stick being banned in case people trip and impale themselves.



= The number of complaints to the health and safety myth-busting panel by nation/region.