

No to Age Banding

Government comments

You are correct in thinking that this issue is not the direct responsibility of my Department; however, my officials do meet with representatives of the Publishers' Association to discuss their educational work, and I understand they discussed this proposal to age band books earlier this year. While we are broadly supportive of any measures which help parents to choose the right books for their children, we advise caution in this area (for the reason your constituent outlines) and recommend that parents seeking guidance about this contact librarians or teachers who know about the full range of children's literature.

Rt Hon Ed Balls, MP, Secretary of State. (Letter dated 30 July 2008)

I think you'll find government educational policy is currently Stages, not Ages.

Helen Goodman, MP, deputy leader of the House of Commons.