

27 January 2005

Secondary schools report problems with SIMS migration

Secondary schools using the SIMS management information system are reporting significant problems migrating to the new version of the software.

The Secondary Heads Association (SHA) sent out an email alert to members on Tuesday, 25 January, after it was warned of potential problems. Within 24 hours more than 80 schools had responded citing serious issues with the system.

Said SHA Deputy General Secretary Martin Ward: *"So rapid a rapid response from busy school leaders means that there are a significant number of schools with difficulties. Some of the issues reported are systematic, so all schools who use SIMS will have suffered to some extent. Many schools have managed, despite these to make their statistic returns on time problems, but some will find that impossible."*

"SHA's first priority is to make sure that schools are not penalised by problems with the system, and we will address this with the DfES. The bigger issue however, is the unnecessary and time-consuming work school leaders will have put in to rectify a problem caused by others."