questionnaire is not intended. Seven respondents had already used the questionnaire or were about to do so, and five, unfortunately, had not had time to study the document. All the other respondents (23) ticked the “any other reasons” box, showing the need for such a category of response in a questionnaire of this type.

“Other reasons”

However, I have been able to sub-divide these responses into several groups, the two biggest of which perhaps reflect practical problems familiar to workers in health education or, indeed, to professionals in any emerging subject area where individual enthusiasm and charisma are important ingredients. In six cases the teacher responsible for requesting the questionnaire had left the department before using it in school, and in five cases, despite the enthusiasm of an individual, no health education programme had been implemented.

All of the Health Education Officers who had sent for the master copy had done so either to introduce its use to teachers or as a background resource for teachers to study. One small school felt inhibited by financial considerations; the questionnaires cost only £5 per year group to process, regardless of the number of pupils, but paper, printing and postage for the completed questionnaires are additional costs which could bring the total cost to as much as £20. In another school the document had been passed to the Head of Department for approval.

My favourite response came from a teacher who claimed his delay in using the questionnaire was simply: Procrastination! awaiting the appropriate time to present document to colleagues! A frustrated reply came from a school where a colleague had inadvertently upset the health education co-ordinator by administering the questionnaire to the wrong age group!

If you have already requested Version 3 of the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire and have not yet used it, do please await the imminent appearance of Version 10, which should be “hot off the press” in the very near future. Among the changes are check-lists for the diet and sports questions to simplify the completion of these important areas, some new road safety questions, a self-esteem dimension for each pupil, inclusion of video and computer questions; generally a much-improved format and presentation to meet the requirements of the secondary school pupil in 1984!