

# Deferral of initial teacher education (ITE) inspections

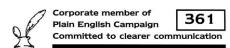
Information for ITE partnerships

This document sets out Ofsted's approach to the deferral of inspections of ITE partnerships.

Reference to ISPs in this document refer to Ofsted's inspection service provider partners, who administer and conduct inspections on behalf of Ofsted.

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Piccadilly Gate Store Street Manchester M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231

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#### **Deferral of ITE inspections**

There are a limited number of circumstances in which a decision can be taken that an ITE inspection should not go ahead on the planned dates. The purpose of this policy is to set out Ofsted's approach to the deferral of ITE inspections.

Ofsted's policy is that deferral or cancellation should only be granted if:

- the provider's representative or a member of the ITE partnership's senior management team is subject to a current police investigation which would be compromised by an inspection of the ITE partnership
- the ITE partnership has experienced a recent major incident, such as a fatal accident to a trainee or key member of the partnership's staff
- there are other exceptional circumstances which, in the judgement of the Regional Director (RD), justify deferral or cancellation of the inspection. The nature of such circumstances should be recorded fully.

Applications to defer a planned inspection on the grounds that the provider's representative is away from the ITE partnership will not be accepted, as trainees in the ITE partnership are still receiving training.

In the case of illness or death of the provider's representative, professional judgement will be exercised by the RD.

#### **Deferral process**

The chart on the following page is the process followed by lead inspectors.



#### **Deferral process**

The ISP provides notification of inspection. The ITE partnership requests that the inspection is deferred.

The lead inspector considers the ITE partnership's deferral request against the criteria in Ofsted's ITE deferral guidance. The lead inspector decides whether to recommend refusing or granting the deferral request.

The lead inspector telephones the managing inspector (MI) with the operational lead for ITE to discuss his/her recommendation.

## The MI decides to refuse the deferral request.

A standard letter confirming refusal is sent by email from the Ofsted's helpdesk to the ISP (copied to the RD) to forward to the ITE partnership. The letter sets out why Ofsted has refused the ITE partnership's request.

### The MI recommends that the inspection should be deferred.

The recommendation is passed to the designated RD, who informs the MI of the final decision. The MI informs the lead inspector. A standard letter confirming the deferral is sent by email from the MI to the ISP (copied to the RD) to forward to the ITE partnership. The letter sets out why Ofsted has granted the deferral.

The lead inspector provides oral confirmation of Ofsted's decision to the ITE partnership, and explains that this will be confirmed in writing.