

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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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

