

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh

10 June 1921 to 9 April 2021

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Guidance

Ofsted Inspection and ESFA intervention

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The timings below reflect Ofsted's usual timelines. However, coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused significant disruption to Ofsted's activity. See Ofsted's [coronavirus rolling update](#) to see how they are currently dealing with the disruption.

Ofsted inspect the quality of apprenticeship training that is delivered by training providers to ensure it is high-quality and meets the needs of employers and apprentices. This helps to ensure apprentices learn, develop and make progress as they should. It also helps providers to continuously improve and provides accountability for the public money used to fund apprenticeships.

For providers offering higher, level 6 plus and degree apprenticeships that are also regulated by the Office for Students (on the OfS Register), these providers are also in scope of OfS regulation. The OfS regulates at provider level and consider apprentices' outcomes as part of its assessment of the overall quality of a provider.

For further information on apprenticeships quality assurance and the responsibilities of apprenticeships quality bodies, please refer to the apprenticeships [accountability statement](#).

New provider monitoring visits

New training providers should expect a monitoring visit by Ofsted within 24 months of enrolling their first apprentices. Providers are given 2 days' notice of the visit.

During monitoring visits, inspectors make judgments on the progress made by the new provider. The outcomes and the report of these visits are then published on Ofsted's website.

The outcome of the monitoring visit will determine the timing of the first full Ofsted inspection and, where necessary, any intervention action taken by the ESFA [according to their policy](#).

It is important to remember that monitoring visits only indicate progress. Providers that are awarded 'reasonable' or 'significant' progress in their new provider monitoring visits do not always achieve 'good' or 'outstanding' grades at their first full inspection. Progress must continue to be made, particularly on any weaknesses identified by Ofsted inspectors to achieve a 'good' or 'outstanding' grade at full inspection.

Full inspections

Full Ofsted inspections will be scheduled within 24 months of the first monitoring visit. Inspectors grade the:

- quality of education and training
- leadership and management
- behaviour and attitudes
- types of provision offered.

Consequences of being graded inadequate

Providers receiving an 'inadequate' grade for overall effectiveness will be removed from the RoATP. Their funding is stopped once any apprentices that remain with the provider complete their training. For further information see the ESFA's [guide on how it removes inadequate training providers from the RoATP](#).

Ofsted's [guide to inspections for providers](#) contains a more detailed summary of what to expect from Ofsted.

Also, Ofsted's full monitoring and inspection criteria can be found in Ofsted's [further education and skills handbook](#).

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