

Changes to Ofsted's statistical reporting on inspections and outcomes for children's homes and local authority children's services

Consultation document

This is a consultation on our proposals for revisions to the frequency and content of social care inspection official statistics and management information.

We are seeking the widest possible range of views to ensure that the revised publications take into account the needs of all those who have expertise or an interest in children's social care. We are particularly keen to hear from people who are directly involved with children's social care services, including children, parents and carers, and those who run and commission services.

The closing date for this consultation is **29 March 2019**.

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Corporate member of
Plain English Campaign
Committed to clearer communication

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About Ofsted

1. The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people and in education and skills for learners of all ages.

Purpose and background to the consultation

2. This consultation seeks your views on the new arrangements that we propose for reporting on the outcomes of inspections of children's homes and local authority children's services. Your contribution will help to refine and develop these statistics to meet users' needs.
3. Three regular Ofsted publications will be affected by these changes:
 - 'Local authority and children's homes in England inspections and outcomes', official statistics published annually in December at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/childrens-social-care-statistics. This reports on the most recent inspections and outcomes of children's homes and local authority children's services, and on inspections that took place between 1 April and 30 September, published by 31 October that year. In addition to tables, charts, interactive tables and underlying provider-level data, it includes a written commentary on the main findings from the data.
 - 'Children's social care in England', national statistics published annually in June at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/childrens-social-care-statistics. This reports on the most recent inspection outcomes of all social care providers and local authority children's services, and on inspections that took place in the year to date (1 April to 31 March). In addition to tables, charts, interactive tables and underlying provider-level data, it includes a written commentary on the main findings from the data.
 - 'Children's homes inspections and outcomes: management information', published quarterly at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/childrens-social-care-statistics. The information includes every children's home's full and interim inspection and monitoring visit that took place in the period. However, it is a smaller release and does not include a written commentary.
4. These proposals only affect how we report on the outcomes of inspections in our statistical datasets. They do not affect the frequency of inspections, the data that is used in the inspection, or the way that inspection reports are displayed on our website.

The aim of the consultation

5. The aim of this consultation is to find out how Ofsted can make the release of statistics for children's social care more timely, simpler and more user-friendly.

6. The responses will inform the review of the publications. The consultation closes on 29 March 2019. Results will be published before the end of May 2019.

Proposals

7. We are proposing three changes to the children's homes and local authority inspections and outcomes releases, namely:
 - changing the period covered by the local authority and children's homes official statistics from six months to five months; this is to align it with the period for other remits (types of provider we inspect) and with the period covered by the Ofsted Annual Report
 - removing the interactive tables from the underlying data
 - reducing the frequency of publishing children's homes management information, from quarterly to biannually.

Proposal 1: changing the period covered

8. Our local authority and children's homes inspections and outcomes are currently published twice a year, in June (which covers the full inspection year from April to March) and December (which covers the period from April to September). We are proposing to reduce the period covered by the release of official statistics in December from six months to five months, so that it covers inspections carried out in the period from 1 April to 31 August that had their inspection reports published by 30 September. This will align with the reporting period we use for the schools, further education and skills, independent schools and early years remits.
9. This change will result in the publication being released in November rather than December, in line with the other inspections and outcomes publications. This will make the release of data more timely and therefore more readily accessible.
10. The revised publication will align with the period covered by the Ofsted Annual Report. It will also remove the need to publish an additional social care dataset in December.

Proposal 2: removing the interactive tables

11. We are proposing to remove the interactive tables from the underlying data Excel files published alongside the 'Children's social care in England' release and the 'Local authority and children's homes in England inspections and outcomes' release. They are the least frequently used of the statistical releases that we publish and removing them will streamline the production of the releases.
12. The interactive tables we propose to remove show inspection judgements for local authority inspections (which cover the current and two previous inspection

frameworks), children’s social care (which show inspection judgements for all non-local authority inspections), and sub-judgements (which show inspection sub-judgements for all non-local authority inspections).

13. The data shown in the interactive tables will still be available within the provider-level tabs published within the underlying data Excel files.

Proposal 3: reducing the publication of children’s homes management information from quarterly to biannually

14. We are proposing to reduce the frequency of publishing children’s homes management information, from quarterly to biannually. Currently, we produce the following children’s homes management information:
 - management information published in February on inspections from the previous October to December
 - management information published in May on inspections from January to March
 - management information published in August on inspections from April to June
 - management information published in November on inspections from July to September.
15. The publications we are planning to remove cover the periods from January to March, and July to September. The data covered by these two publications is available in the underlying datasets published alongside the ‘Children’s social care in England’ and ‘Local authority and children’s homes in England inspections and outcomes’ releases. The proposal will streamline the number of management information publications, but the data will still be published quarterly.
16. The proposed change in the period covered by the December official statistics will also result in the change in the period covered by the management information published in February: it will cover the four-month period (September to December) rather than the usual three months (October to December).

Summary of proposed release schedule

17. The proposed changes outlined above would result in the following release schedule each year:
 - ‘Children’s homes inspections and outcomes management information’ published in February on children’s homes inspections from the previous September to December

- 'Children's social care in England' national statistics published in June, which reports on inspections of all social care providers and local authority children's services from April to March
- 'Children's homes inspections and outcomes management information' published in August on children's homes inspections from April to June
- 'Local authority and children's homes in England inspections and outcomes' official statistics published in November, which reports on inspections of children's homes and local authority children's services from April to August.

The consultation process

18. We welcome your responses to this consultation paper. The consultation opens on 25 February 2019 and closes on 29 March 2019.
19. The information you provide us with will inform our consideration of the frequency of publication of official statistics and management information for children's homes, and the presentation of data.
20. We will publish a report on the response to this consultation by the end of May 2019.

Sending back your response

21. There are three ways of completing and submitting your response:

- **Online electronic questionnaire**

Visit our website to complete and submit an electronic version of the response form: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CHStats.

- **Download and email**

Visit our website to download a Word version of the response form that you can complete on your computer:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-ofsteds-statistical-reporting-on-inspections-and-outcomes-for-childrens-homes-and-local-authority-childrens-services.

When you have completed the form, please email it to socialcaredata@ofsted.gov.uk with the consultation name in the subject line.

- **Print and post**

Visit our website to print a Word or PDF version of the response form that can be filled in by hand: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-ofsteds-statistical-reporting-on-inspections-and-outcomes-for-childrens-homes-and-local-authority-childrens-services. When you have completed it, please post it to:

Social Care Data and Analysis Team
Data and Insight
Ofsted
2 Rivergate
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6EH

Questionnaire for changes to Ofsted’s statistical reporting of inspections and outcomes for children’s homes and local authority children’s services

Confidentiality

The information you provide will be held by us. It will only be used for the purposes of consultation and research to help us to become more effective, influence policies and inform inspection and regulatory practice.

We will treat your identity in confidence, if you disclose it to us.

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

- Yes please complete Section 1 and the following questions
 No please complete Section 2 and the following questions

Section 1

If you would like us to consider publishing the views of your organisation, please indicate this below.

Organisation: _____

Section 2

Which of the below best describes you? Please tick one option.

I am:

Employed in a children’s home (e.g. manager, care worker etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Person with an interest in our data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service user (foster carers, adopters, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leader/manager in a local authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government department	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social worker	<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of Parliament	<input type="checkbox"/>
Press	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (please specify)			

Proposal 1: changing the period covered

We are considering changing the period covered by the local authority and children’s homes official statistics from six months to five months to align it with other remits (types of provider we inspect) and the period that covers the Ofsted Annual Report.

For more information about this proposal, see paragraphs 8–10 of this consultation document.

Do you...

Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don’t know <input type="checkbox"/>
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Please add any comments to our proposal:

Proposal 2: removing the interactive tables

To streamline production, we are proposing to remove the interactive tables from the underlying data Excel files published alongside the ‘Children’s social care in England’ release and the ‘Local authority and children’s homes in England inspections and outcomes’ release.

For more information about this proposal, see paragraphs 11–13 of this consultation document.

Do you...

Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don’t know <input type="checkbox"/>
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Please add any comments to our proposal:

Proposal 3: changing the frequency of management information

We are proposing to streamline the number of children’s homes management information releases we publish, by reducing them from quarterly to biannually.

For more information about this proposal, see paragraphs 14–16 of this consultation document.

Do you...

Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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Please add any comments to our proposal:

What did you think of this consultation?

One of the commitments in our strategic plan is to monitor whether our consultations are accessible to those wishing to take part.

How did you hear about this consultation?

- Ofsted website
- 'Ofsted News', Ofsted's monthly newsletter
- Ofsted conference
- Twitter (@ofstednews)
- Another organisation (please specify, if known)
- Other (please specify)

Please tell us what you thought of this consultation by answering the questions below.

	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Don't know
I found the consultation information clear and easy to understand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I found the consultation easy to find on the Ofsted website.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I had enough information about the consultation topic.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would take part in a future Ofsted consultation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Is there anything you would like us to improve or do differently for future consultations? If so, please tell us below.

Additional questions about you

Your answers to the following questions will help us to evaluate how successfully we are communicating messages from inspection to all sections of society. We would like to assure you that completion of this section is optional; you do not have to answer any of the questions. All responses are confidential.

Please tick the appropriate box.

1. Gender

Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Male <input type="checkbox"/>
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2. Age

Under 14 <input type="checkbox"/>	14–18 <input type="checkbox"/>	19–24 <input type="checkbox"/>	25–34 <input type="checkbox"/>	35–44 <input type="checkbox"/>	45–54 <input type="checkbox"/>	55–64 <input type="checkbox"/>	65+ <input type="checkbox"/>
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3. Ethnic origin

(a) How would you describe your national group?

- British or mixed British
- English
- Irish
- Northern Irish
- Scottish
- Welsh
- Other (specify if you wish)

(b) How would you describe your ethnic group?

Asian		Mixed ethnic origin	
Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian and White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black African and White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black Caribbean and White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other Asian background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other mixed ethnic background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black		White	
African	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any White background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other ethnic background	
Any other Black background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese			
Any Chinese background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

4. Sexual orientation

Heterosexual <input type="checkbox"/>	Lesbian <input type="checkbox"/>	Gay <input type="checkbox"/>	Bisexual <input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Religion/belief

Buddhist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Muslim	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sikh	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hindu	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other, please state:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	

6. Disability

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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