

Deferral of initial teacher education inspections

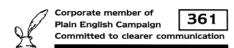
Information for initial teacher education partnerships

This document sets out Ofsted's approach to the deferral of inspections of initial teacher education (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.

Published: May 2014

Reference no: 140097



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. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/140097.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate Store Street Manchester M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231

Textphone: 0161 618 8524 E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

No. 140097

© Crown copyright 2014





Deferral of initial teacher education inspections

There are a limited number of circumstances in which a decision can be taken that an initial teacher education (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 at either stage 1 or stage 2 if:

- the provider's representative or a member of the ITE partnership's senior management team is subject to a current police investigation that 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 that, in the judgement of the Regional Director, 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 Regional Director.

Provider's representatives lodging a request for deferral should study the criteria above carefully and ensure that at least one of the criteria applies before they make a request at either stage 1 or stage 2.

Requests should be made in writing to the inspection service provider (ISP) administrator named on the inspection notification letter.

Arrangements for the inspection at either stage 1 or stage 2 should continue to be made while the request for deferral is dealt with.

Deferral process

The chart on the following page is the process followed by Ofsted.



Deferral process for use at stage 1 or stage 2

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 National Lead (NL) for ITE, including further education (FE) to discuss her/his recommendation.

The National Lead decides to refuse the deferral request.

The NL consults with the designated Regional Director (RD). A standard letter confirming refusal is sent by email from the NL 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 National Lead recommends that the inspection should be deferred.

The recommendation is passed to the designated RD, who informs the NL of the final decision. The NL informs the lead inspector. A standard letter confirming the deferral is sent by email from the NL 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 by the ISP.