

Further education and skills inspection and outcomes: official statistics

Consultation document

This consultation seeks the view of users of further education and skills inspection and outcomes official statistics on planned changes to this publication.

The closing date for the consultation is 15 September 2014.

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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. Ofsted currently releases further education and skills inspection and outcomes statistics for each quarter. Statistics are published for England and local authorities.
3. The statistics are published as official statistics by Ofsted and are undergoing evaluation to ensure that they meet users' needs.
4. This user consultation forms part of the review.
5. This consultation is of particular relevance to users of further education and skills inspection and outcomes statistical releases.

The aim of the consultation

6. The aim of this consultation is to investigate how Ofsted can make the frequency and content of releases more useful.
7. Responses will inform the review of the publication with the results published within approximately three weeks of the consultation closing.

The consultation process and submitting your views

8. We welcome your responses to this consultation paper. The consultation opens on 11 August and closes on 15 September 2014.
9. There are three ways of completing and submitting your response.

Online electronic questionnaire

10. Visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/FEstats to complete and submit an electronic version of the response form.

Download and email

11. Visit www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/140139 to download a Word version of this document and complete the questions on your computer. When you have completed the form, please email it to FEandSkillsData@ofsted.gov.uk with the consultation name in the subject line (Further education and skills inspection and outcomes official statistics).

Print and post

12. Visit www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/140139 to print a Word or PDF version of the response form that can be filled in by hand. When you have completed it please post it to:

FE and Skills team
Ofsted
Floor 2
Freshford House
Redcliffe Way
Bristol
BS1 6NL

Questionnaire for further education and skills inspection and outcomes official statistics consultation

Confidentiality

The information you provide will be held by us. It will only be used for the purposes of consultation and to help us plan and develop our statistical outputs.

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.

Which organisation are you responding on behalf of? _____

Are you happy for us to consider publishing the views of your organisation?

Yes ☐
No ☐

Section 2

What sector do you work in? _____

What is your profession? _____

Introduction

We propose to reduce the frequency of publication of further education and skills official statistics, while at the same time introducing regular publication of management information. Please help us make the right changes and improve our service by completing this short questionnaire.

Frequency of statistical releases

Currently we release full official statistics every quarter but we are considering reducing this to every six months, supported by regular releases of inspection outcomes through management information. These releases would not include key findings but could report on the previous period, the year to date and the current latest grades for all providers. Due to the relatively small number of inspections, we think this would allow us to write more meaningful and interesting key findings but would ensure that data are still readily available publically.

Question 1

We are considering reducing the frequency of further education and skills official statistics releases from four releases per year to two releases per year. If these statistical releases were supplemented with regular management information would this be sufficient to meet your needs?

Yes	No	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any comments on this?

Question 2

If Ofsted reduces the frequency of official statistics to two releases per year, how frequently would you require management information to be released?

- ☐ Once per month
- ☐ Every two months
- ☐ Every three months
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Do you have any comments on this?

Management information

We envisage management information will include the following for all providers:

- grades from the inspections published since the last management information
- the inspection grades for all inspections completed and published in the inspection year to date.

The data would be supplied in CSV files. We could also include a small number of charts and it would be helpful if you could tell us what you would like these to show.

Question 3

What would you like the management information to contain?

Question 4

Are there any charts that would be particularly useful to you?

Question 5

How useful are the current official statistics releases to you?

Very useful	Useful	Of some use	Not very useful	No use at all
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How could the current official statistics releases be improved?

Question 6

Do you have anything else you would like to add to this consultation?

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) _____

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.

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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Thank you

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete the questionnaire and contribute to the consultation. We will collate the responses we receive and these will influence the decision we make and the structure and content of our official statistics and management information.

Please return to:

FE and Skills team
Floor 2
Freshford House
Redcliffe Way
Bristol
BS1 6NL

Email: FEandSkillsData@ofsted.gov.uk