

# Publication of statistics on inspection of children's centres

Consultation document

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This is a consultation document on Ofsted's proposals for revisions to the publication of statistics relating to children's centre inspections. We are seeking the widest possible range of views to ensure that the revised publication format takes into account the needs and circumstances of all those who have an interest or expertise in children's centres. We are particularly keen to hear from people who have been directly involved with centres – including children, parents and carers and those who commission services.

The closing date for the consultation is 24 October 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. Children's centres are expected to provide, or make arrangements for parents-to-be and families with young children, including wider family members such as grandparents, to access early childhood services. They are a local port of call when a mother, father or carer needs help or advice; whether that is in relation to their role as parent/carer, their child's well-being or learning and development, or to find out about neighbourhood activities for parents or activities for children including play groups or nurseries. In this context, early childhood services are:
  - childcare for young children
  - social services functions of the local authority relating to young children, parents and prospective parents
  - health services relating to young children, parents and prospective parents
  - employment support from Jobcentre Plus for parents or prospective parents
  - the local authority's information, advice and assistance service relating to childcare and other services and facilities relevant to young children and their families.
3. Ofsted currently produces children's centre official statistics that report on inspection outcomes. This release is published quarterly on the Ofsted website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/20110012](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/20110012).
4. This consultation seeks your views on new arrangements for the publication of children's centres official statistics. Your contribution will help to refine and develop these publications to meet users' needs. This consultation does not relate to the carrying out of particular children's centre inspections, or the publication of individual inspections reports.
5. Responses will inform the review of the publication. The consultation closes on 24 October 2014 and results will be published in November 2014.
6. We will use the information gathered through the consultation to finalise the revised arrangements. We propose to implement the changes from March 2015.

## The aim of the consultation

### Introduction

7. We are seeking your views on two specific proposals:
  1. changing the frequency of the publication
  2. changing the layout and presentation of the publication.

### Proposal 1: Changing the frequency of the publication (Question 1)

8. Ofsted currently produces official statistics every quarter on the inspection outcomes for children’s centres. There are a small number of inspections and we believe reducing the frequency of the statistical release to twice a year will allow us to write more meaningful and interesting findings.
9. Therefore we are considering reducing the frequency of publication to twice a year so data is released in two batches:
  - 1 April to 31 August: These data will coincide with the end of the academic year.
  - 1 September to 31 March: These data will coincide with the end of the fiscal year.

### Proposal 2: Changing the layout and presentation of the publication (Questions 2–3)

10. We are seeking your views on two specific proposals on changes to the layout and presentation of the statistical release:
  1. removal of table 4
  2. removal of chart 1.
11. Ofsted also intends to make other minor changes to the layout to improve clarity and ease of use. These changes will not reduce the amount of data included, so are not included in this consultation process.
12. ‘Table 4’ in the summary document of the current publication lists the inspection outcomes by each individual local authority. We are considering removing this table from the publication because the data recorded against each local authority are so small – we feel that this is not the best way to present this information.
13. Ofsted will continue to publish a data file as part of the publication with details of each individual inspection. It will still be possible to filter this to see all inspections and outcomes carried out in a particular local authority.

14. 'Chart 1' in the summary document of the current publication charts the inspection outcomes only for those inspections carried out in the time period of the publication. We are considering removing this chart as the data shown only relate to a small targeted sample of inspections. The information shown will still be available in table form which we will continue to provide.

## **The consultation process**

15. We welcome your responses to this consultation paper. The consultation opens on 11 September 2014 and closes on 24 October 2014.
16. The information you provide will inform our changes to the publication of inspection statistics on children's centres.
17. We will publish a response to the consultation in November 2014.

## **Sending back your response**

18. There are three ways of completing and submitting your response.

### **Online electronic questionnaire**

19. Visit [www.surveymonkey.com/s/CCstats](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CCstats) to complete and submit an electronic version of the response form.

### **Download and email**

20. Visit [www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/140158](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/140158) 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 [childcaredataqueries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:childcaredataqueries@ofsted.gov.uk) with the consultation name in the subject line.

### **Print and post**

21. Visit [www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/140158](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/140158) 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:

Data and Insight  
Ofsted  
Freshford House  
Redcliffe Way  
Bristol  
BS1 6NL

## Questionnaire for children's centre official statistics publications

### 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 are considering reducing the frequency of the publication of children's centre official statistics and alter the contents of the publication. Please help us make the right changes and improve our service by completing this short questionnaire.

## Proposal 1

We are considering reducing the publication of children's centre official statistics to twice a year, relating to inspections from 1 April to 31 August and inspections from 1 September to 31 March. Due to the small number of inspections, we think this would allow us to write more meaningful and interesting key findings.

## Question 1

Would this be sufficient to meet your needs?

Yes	No	Don't know
<input data-bbox="272 994 309 1032" type="checkbox"/>	<input data-bbox="477 994 513 1032" type="checkbox"/>	<input data-bbox="683 994 719 1032" type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any comments on this?



## Proposal 2

We are considering removing table 4 from the children's centre official statistics, as most data items in it are zero. The information shown will still be available to users by filtering on the underlying data we will continue to provide.

### Question 2

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?

We are considering removing chart 1 from the children's centre official statistics, as the data shown only relates to a small, targeted sample of inspections. The information shown will still be available to users in table form which we will continue to provide.

### Question 3

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 4**

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"/>

**Question 5**

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?

<b>Asian</b>		<b>Mixed ethnic origin</b>	
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"/>
<b>Black</b>		<b>White</b>	
African	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any White background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Any other ethnic background</b>	
Any other Black background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Chinese</b>			
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:

Data and Insight  
Ofsted  
Freshford House  
Redcliffe Way  
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