

Publication of statistics on early years providers and places and inspection outcomes

Consultation document

This is a consultation document on Ofsted's proposals for revisions to the publication of statistics relating to early years inspections and the number of registered childcare providers and places. 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 early years. We are particularly keen to hear from people who have been directly involved with early years provision – including children, parents and carers and those who run and commission services.

The closing date for the consultation is 28 November 2014.

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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

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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 proposed new arrangements for the early years official statistics that are published by Ofsted. Your contribution will help to refine and develop these publications to meet users' needs.
3. Ofsted currently produces two early years official statistics: *Registered childcare providers and places in England* and *Early years and childcare registered providers inspections and outcomes*.
4. The *Registered childcare providers and places in England* release reports on the number of active providers currently on the early years and/or childcare registers, with the number of places they are eligible to offer. This release is published every six months on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/20090002.
5. The *Early years and childcare registered providers inspections and outcomes* reports on the most recent inspection outcomes. This release is published quarterly on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/20110015.

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. This consultation is of particular relevance to users of early years statistical releases.
8. Responses will inform the review of the publication. The consultation closes on 28 November 2014 and results will be published in early 2015.

Proposed new arrangements

Introduction

9. We are proposing three key changes to the two early years official statistics, namely:
 - changing the frequency of the releases
 - combining the two releases together
 - streamlining the releases to make them more focused and user-friendly.

Changing the frequency of statistical releases (question 1)

10. Ofsted currently publishes official statistics every quarter for the inspection outcomes release, with a six-monthly publication for providers and places.
11. We propose changing the frequency of these two early years publications by:
 - publishing information on inspection outcomes three times a year instead of quarterly (1 January – 31 March, 1 April – 31 August, 1 September – 31 December)
 - publishing information on provider and places three times a year instead of every six months (1 January – 31 March, 1 April – 31 August, 1 September – 31 December).

Combining the two statistical releases together (question 2)

12. To allow for more joined-up reporting, we are considering combining the information from the two official statistics publications into one and renaming the publication.
13. The new publication will hold data on the number of registered providers, together with information on providers' inspection outcomes for the same reporting period.

Streamlining the releases (questions 3–8)

14. We envisage making changes to the content of the registered provider data and the inspection outcomes information by:
 - simplifying the way we report on the early years and childcare registers – removing the monthly breakdown reporting and modifying the three charts that are presented in the official statistics release
 - removing some inspection tables and charts to focus more on the state of nation analysis and change the methodology of table 7
 - replacing current provider level inspection files with one comprehensive file containing registration and inspection information.
15. For the *Registered childcare providers and places in England* release, we would remove the register combination data currently shown and report only on the number of providers registered on the early years register (EYR) and the childcare (voluntary and compulsory) register (CCR) and an overall total number of providers registered. Currently we report on seven variations of register combination. (**Question 3**)
16. We would remove the monthly breakdown reporting from the providers and places publication and report on the numbers at the end of the latest reporting period for each release (for example, the number of providers registered at the end of March or the end of August). (**Question 4**)

17. With the introduction of Childminder Agencies (CMA) in September 2014, childminders can choose to register with Ofsted or with an agency. Those who choose an agency will no longer register with Ofsted and will be removed from the register. This change makes reporting on childminder trends, pre- and post-September 2014 unreliable. To address this, we would present childcare numbers over time only and remove childminders' information from charts 1–3. **(Question 5)**
18. The *Early years and childcare registered providers inspections and outcomes* release consists of 16 tables and five charts. We would like to identify and remove several tables and charts that we believe are not adding value or insight into the early years sector for users. **(Question 6)**
19. We would like to change the methodology of table 7 in the summary table file ('Actions issued at early years registered inspections') to report on the most recent inspections since September 2012 (the implementation of the current Early Years Framework) instead of the current method that reports on the latest inspection quarter only. **(Question 7)**
20. If the responses to this consultation supports the proposal of combining the two releases together, there is an opportunity to bring registration and inspection data together and report on them at the same point in time. We would improve the provider level files currently published to include registration data. This modified file would still contain all the inspection information we currently publish. **(Question 8)**

The consultation process and submitting your views

21. We welcome your responses to this consultation paper. The consultation opens on 25 September and closes on 28 November 2014.
22. The information you provide us with will inform our changes to the publication of statistics on early years.
23. We will publish a response to the consultation in early 2015.

Sending back your response

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

Online electronic questionnaire

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

Download and email

26. Visit www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/140160 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 with the consultation name in the subject line (Early years official statistics consultation).

Print and post

27. Visit www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/140160 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 early years providers and places and 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? _____

Please help us make the right changes and improve our service by completing this short questionnaire.

Question 1

We are considering changing the frequency of the two early years official statistics releases to produce three releases per year. (1 January – 31 March, 1 April – 31 August, 1 September – 31 December). Would this number of releases be sufficient to meet your needs?

(Please refer to paragraphs 10–11)

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

Do you have any comments on this?

Question 2

We are considering joining the two early years official statistics publications together. Do you think this will improve the way we report on early years?

(Please refer to paragraphs 12–13)

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

Do you have any comments on this?

Question 3

In the *Registered childcare providers and places in England* release, we would like to simplify the reporting on the early years and childcare registers.

Do you agree that removing the register combination data would simplify how we report on this information and make it more user-friendly?

(Please refer to paragraph 15)

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

Do you have any comments on this?

Question 4

For the *Registered childcare providers and places in England* release, do you agree with removing the monthly breakdown reporting to focus on the register at the end of each reporting period?

(Please refer to paragraph 16)

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

Do you have any comments on this?

Question 5

In the *Registered childcare providers and places in England* release, do you agree with modifying charts 1–3 by removing the childminder information to report on childcare provision only?

(Please refer to paragraph 17)

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

Do you have any comments on this?

Question 6

To streamline the *Early years and childcare registered providers inspections and outcomes* release, are you happy for the following tables and charts to be removed from the summary file?

(Please refer to paragraph 18)

Table/chart	Table/chart title	Yes	No	Don't know
2	Inspection outcomes of early years registered providers inspected (in the quarter)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3a	Overall effectiveness of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection, by provider	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4a	Early years registered providers complying with the requirements of the Childcare Register at inspections (in the quarter) by provider type	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4b	Providers on the Childcare Register only complying with the requirements of the Childcare Register at inspections (in the quarter) by provider type	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5	Early years registered providers complying with the requirements of the Childcare Register at their most recent inspection by provider type	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Providers on the Childcare Register only complying with the requirements of the Childcare Register at their most recent inspection by provider type	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Recommendations made at early years registered inspections (in the quarter) by the statutory requirements of the Early Years Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9a	Early years registered providers inspected when there were no children on roll complying with the requirements for registration (in the quarter) by provider type	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9b	Active early years registered providers inspected when there were no children on roll complying with the requirements of registration at their most recent inspection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10a	Overall effectiveness of early years registered providers inspected (in the quarter) by region and local authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chart 1	Overall effectiveness of early years registered providers inspected (in the quarter)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chart 2	Inspection judgements of early years registered providers inspected (in the quarter)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chart 4	Inspection judgements of active early years registered providers inspected at their most recent inspection by provider type	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded 'No' or 'Don't know' to any of the above, please give the table/chart number and say why it should be kept below.

Question 7

For the *Early years and childcare registered providers inspections and outcomes* release, we are considering changing the methodology for table 7 ('Actions issued at early years registered inspections') to report on the most recent inspections since September 2012, instead of the current method that reports on the latest inspection quarter only. Are you happy with this change?

(Please refer to paragraph 19)

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

Do you have any comments on this?

Question 8

We are considering merging our current provider level files that report on inspections and adding registration data to it. Are you happy with this change? (Please refer to paragraph 20)

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

Do you have any comments on this?

Other improvements

Question 9

Are there any other ways we could improve the official statistical releases?

Any other comments

Question 10

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	<input type="checkbox"/>

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
Freshford House
Redcliffe Way
Bristol
BS1 6NL

Email: childcaredataqueries@ofsted.gov.uk