

Publication of statistics on social care 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 social care inspections and the number of social care 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 social care. We are particularly keen to hear from people who have been directly involved with social care provision – including children, parents and carers and those who run and commission services.

The closing date for the consultation is 8 December 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. This consultation seeks your views on proposed new arrangements for some of the social care 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 four social care official statistics based on inspections and the number of providers and places: children's social care inspections and outcomes (excluding children's homes); children's home inspection outcomes; children's social care providers and places; and local authority children's services inspections and outcomes.
4. The *Children's social care providers and places* release reports on the number of active providers currently registered with Ofsted, 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/20110013.
5. The *Children's social care inspections and outcomes* release reports on the most recent inspection outcomes of active social care providers. This release is published every six months on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/20110011.
6. The *Children's homes inspections and outcomes* release reports on the most recent inspection outcomes of children's homes. This release is published quarterly on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/20110011.
7. The *Local authority children's services inspections and outcomes* release reports on the most recent inspection outcomes of local authorities' arrangements for the protection of children and outcomes for children looked after. This report is published every six months on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/20110017.
8. Ofsted produces a number of other social care statistical releases based on its data collections on adoption, fostering and children looked after placements, but these are not included in this consultation. There will be a separate consultation about these in the future.

The aim of the consultation

9. The aim of this consultation is to investigate how Ofsted can make the frequency and content of releases more useful.
10. This consultation is of particular relevance to users of social care statistical releases.
11. Responses will inform the review of the publication. The consultation closes on 8 December 2014 and results will be published in December 2014.

Proposed new arrangements

Introduction

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

Changing the frequency of statistical releases (question 1)

13. Ofsted currently publishes official statistics every quarter for children's home inspection outcomes and every six months for children's social care inspections and outcomes (excluding children's homes), children's social care providers and places, and local authority children's services inspection outcomes.
14. We propose changing the frequency of the social care publications by:
 - publishing information on children's social care inspection outcomes (non-children's homes), children's social care providers and places, and local authority children's services inspection outcomes once a year, in June (covering all the inspections in the year up to 31 March), plus one management information release of these data in December (covering the period from 31 March to 30 September)
 - publishing information on children's home inspection outcomes every six months, once in June, together with the other social care data, as above, (covering all the inspections in the year up to 31 March) and then in December (covering the picture from April to September), plus two management information releases in March and September, covering the respective quarters.

Combining the four statistical releases together (question 2)

15. To allow for more joined-up reporting, we are considering combining the information from the four official statistics publications into one and renaming the publication.
16. The new publication, published in June each year, will hold data on the number of registered providers, together with information on providers' inspection outcomes for the same reporting period. The additional children's home publications will contain only children's home information as currently.

Streamlining the releases (questions 3–6)

17. We envisage making changes to the content of the registered provider data and the inspection outcomes information by:
 - simplifying the way in which outputs are presented on the website; this will include ceasing to store files in zip files and no longer having both Excel and .csv versions of data (to have Excel file only)
 - removing some inspection tables and charts to focus more on the state of nation analysis
 - replacing current provider level inspection files with one comprehensive file containing registration and inspection information.
18. For the six-monthly children's home release, we would like to remove the ability to drill down to local authority and regional level data for *all* the current tables, which are often zeroes or suppressed, due to small numbers. We will still provide all provider-level underlying data. (**question 3**)
19. For the six-monthly children's home release, we would like to remove the quarterly breakdown reporting and report only the numbers at the end of the latest reporting period for each release (for example, the outcomes for providers at the end of March or the end of September). (**question 4**)
20. If the responses to this consultation support the proposal of combining the 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 continue to provide the provider-level files currently published to include all the relevant provider and inspection data. (**question 5**)

The consultation process and submitting your views

21. We welcome your responses to this consultation paper. The consultation opens on 10 November and closes on 8 December 2014.
22. The information you provide us with will inform our changes to the publication of statistics on social care.

23. We will publish a response to the consultation in December 2014.

Sending back your response

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

Online electronic questionnaire

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

Download and email

26. Visit www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/140172 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 socialcaredata@ofsted.gov.uk with the consultation name in the subject line (Social care official statistics consultation).

Print and post

27. Visit www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/140172 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 social care 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 four of our social care official statistics releases, to produce one annual report and one six-monthly report, plus additional management information. Do you agree with this proposal?

(Please refer to paragraph 14)

Yes	No	Don't know
<input data-bbox="272 831 309 869" type="checkbox"/>	<input data-bbox="477 831 513 869" type="checkbox"/>	<input data-bbox="683 831 719 869" type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any comments on this?

Question 2

We are considering combining the four current social care official statistics publications together. Do you agree with this proposal?

(Please refer to paragraphs 15–16)

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

Do you have any comments on this?

Question 3

For the six-monthly children's home inspection outcomes release, we would like to simplify the reporting on social care providers. Do you agree with this proposal?

(Please refer to paragraphs 17–18)

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 six-monthly children's home inspection outcomes release, we would like to remove the quarterly breakdown to focus on the position at the end of each reporting period. Do you agree with this proposal?

(Please refer to paragraph 19)

Yes	No	Don't know
<input data-bbox="272 707 312 745" type="checkbox"/>	<input data-bbox="477 707 517 745" type="checkbox"/>	<input data-bbox="683 707 722 745" type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any comments on this?

Question 5

For the yearly social care release (combining all the current social care releases), we propose using providers and places and inspection outcomes data, along with information from local authority inspections, to provide more insight into social care providers in England, for example by presenting information together on capacity and quality of providers. Do you agree with this proposal?

(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?

Question 6

Please tell us about anything in particular that you think it is important to retain in our official statistics releases, or anything you would definitely like to see go.

Other improvements

Question 7

Are there any other ways we could improve the social care official statistics releases?

Question 8

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

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.

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) _____

	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
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Email: socialcaredata@ofsted.gov.uk