

Publication of statistics on maintained schools and academies: inspections and outcomes

Consultation document

This is a consultation document on Ofsted's proposals for revisions to the way we publish inspection outcome statistics for maintained schools and academies. 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 maintained schools and academies. We are particularly keen to hear from people who have been directly involved with schools – including children, parents and carers and those who run and commission services.

The closing date for the consultation is Wednesday, 29 July 2015.

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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 *maintained schools and academies: inspections and outcomes* official statistics that are published by Ofsted. Your contribution will help to refine and develop these publications to meet users' needs.
3. The release, which we are consulting on, reports on most recent inspection outcomes of all open schools and the outcomes of inspections in the previous quarter. The release is published quarterly on the gov.uk website:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/maintained-schools-and-academies-inspections-and-outcomes-official-statistics>

The aim of the consultation

4. The aim of this consultation is to investigate how Ofsted can make the content of these official statistics releases more useful.
5. Responses will inform the review of the publication. The consultation closes on Wednesday, 29 July 2015 and results will be published in early autumn 2015.

Proposed new arrangements

Introduction

6. We are proposing three key changes to the maintained schools and academies: inspections and outcomes release, namely:
 - changing the frequency of the releases
 - making the data more relevant
 - streamlining the release to make it more focused and user-friendly.

Changing the frequency of statistical releases (question 1)

7. Ofsted currently publishes official statistics every quarter for the inspection outcomes of maintained schools and academies.

8. When we first began to publish official statistics, we did not publish any management information.¹ However, now that we publish management information regularly, we believe that there is less need to publish official statistics as frequently as before. We therefore propose reducing the frequency of this publication from four times to three times a year. We propose to publish official statistics on inspection outcomes in March, June and December.
9. These official statistics will continue to be supplemented by regular management information, which will indicate the most recent inspection of each school. At present, there is sometimes a time lag between the production of this information and its publication. Going forward, we intend to publish this management information every month in order to provide users with more timely data.

Making the data more relevant for our users (questions 2 and 3)

10. We intend to make this release more relevant to our users by:
 - reporting data on inspection outcomes within the academic year to date instead of reporting on the previous academic year
 - publishing information on how inspection outcomes of different types of providers compare.
11. At present, we report on:
 - the most recent inspection outcome of all open schools
 - the outcomes of inspections that took place in the previous quarter.
12. It is proposed that:
 - we continue to report on the most recent inspection outcome
 - we report on inspections in the academic year to date as opposed to reporting inspections in the most recent quarter.
13. This seems to be a more sensible approach to reporting on inspection outcomes. It is believed that doing so would make the reporting data more useful in an educational context and more helpful to our users. Comparisons would be more powerful as they would be based on larger numbers of inspections. For instance, in *Maintained schools and academies: inspections and outcomes* January 2015 to March 2015, we reported on the outcomes of the 1437 inspections that had taken place in that quarter. If we were to have

¹ Examples of this management information can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/monthly-management-information-ofsteds-school-inspections-outcomes>

reported on inspections from the beginning of the academic year until the end of March, then we would have reported on 3361 inspections.

14. This change would affect the following tables and charts:

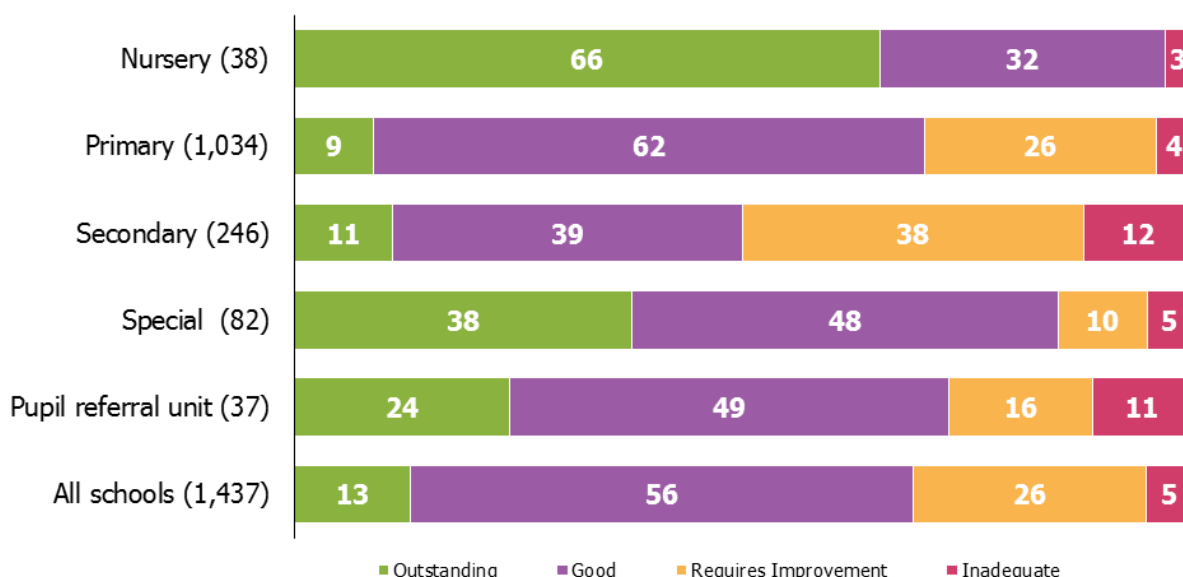
- Number of school inspections in the previous period (Table 1)
- School inspection outcomes in the previous period (Table 2)
- Number of schools placed into, coming out of and closing while in a category of concern in the previous quarter (Table 4)
- Overall effectiveness of schools inspected in the previous period (Chart 2)
- Key inspection judgements for schools inspected in the previous period (Chart 3)

(Question 2)

15. The two charts below demonstrate the changes to Chart 2 as a result of the above changes.

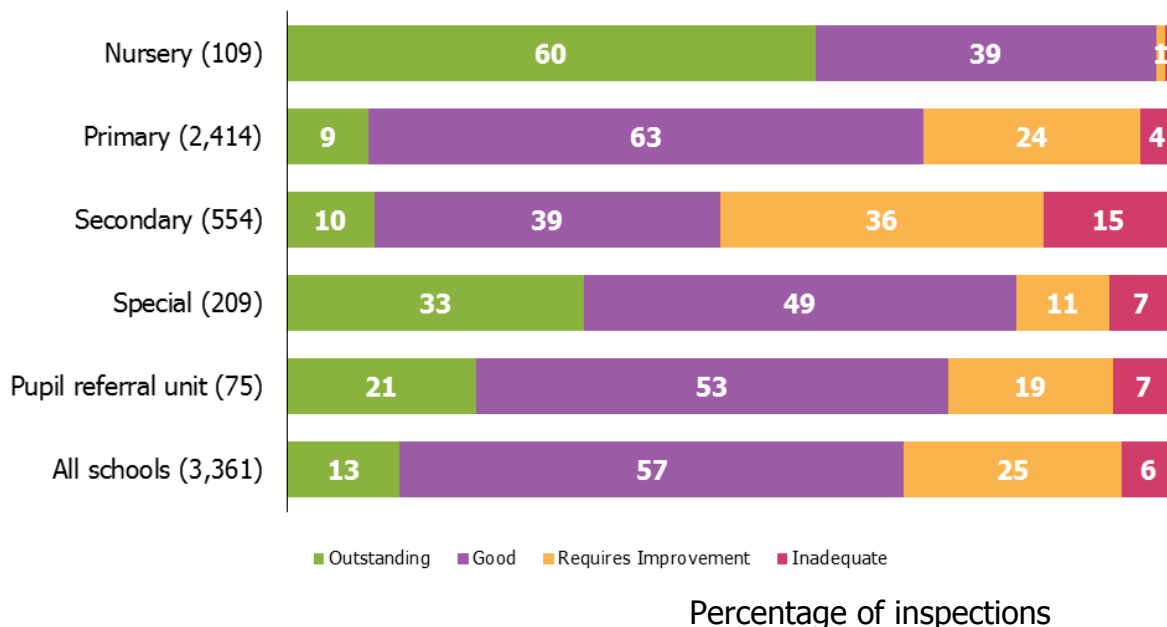
Current chart 2: Overall effectiveness of schools inspected between 1 January to 31 March 2015, by phase (Provisional)

(Maintained schools and academies: inspections and outcomes: January 2015 to March 2015)



Percentage of inspections

Chart 2 with proposed changes (year to date): Overall effectiveness of schools inspected between 1 September 2014 to 31 March 2015, by phase



16. At present, we provide data on the most recent inspection judgements of schools by phase. We are proposing that we also provide additional information showing how the latest inspection judgements for local authority maintained schools, free schools, academy converters and sponsor-led academies compare for each phase. (Question 3)

Streamlining the release (questions 4-6)

17. We envisage making changes to the content of maintained schools and academies inspections and outcomes by:
- removing some tables and charts that we believe add little value for the user
 - combining some tables in order to present data in a format that allows users to more easily compare outcomes
 - only re-issuing key tables and charts within the revised release and commenting on the impact of these changes.
18. For the release, we would combine the information found in Table 2 and Tables 2a to 2e (School inspection outcomes in the previous period by phase). The aim is to allow users to compare the outcomes of different phases on each of the inspection judgements. (Question 4)
19. The current release consists of 14 tables and 5 charts. In addition to the changes proposed above, we propose to remove several tables where the

underlying data are available from the school level inspection data, which we believe are of little additional value to the user. (Question 5)

20. Currently, we revise and republish all tables from the provisional release in the following period. However, the difference between the two releases is usually very minor, and we are aware that the revised tables and charts are not as frequently used as our provisional tables and charts. Any revisions to the most recent inspection outcome at the end of the previous reporting period are captured within the provisional release for the following period. We are therefore considering streamlining the revised content that we provide. It is proposed that we continue to provide revisions to table 1 (Number of school inspections in the previous period, by inspection type) and table 2 (School inspection outcomes in the previous period). We will no longer republish all the other tables, but will highlight any differences as a result of these revisions in the key findings of the next (provisional) release and correct key findings if necessary. (Question 6).

The consultation process and submitting your views

21. We welcome your responses to this consultation paper. The consultation opens on Wednesday, 1 July 2015 and closes on Wednesday, 29 July 2015.
22. The information you provide us with will inform our changes to the publication of maintained schools and academies.
23. We will publish a response to the consultation in early Autumn 2015.

Sending back your response

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

Online electronic questionnaire

25. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PubsofSandAstats> to complete and submit an electronic version of the response form.

Download and email

26. Visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/publication-of-statistics-on-maintained-schools-and-academies-inspections-and-outcomes> 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 inspectioninsight@ofsted.gov.uk with the consultation name in the subject line (Maintained schools and academies official statistics consultation).

Print and post

27. Visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/publication-of-statistics-on-maintained-schools-and-academies-inspections-and-outcomes> 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
2 Rivergate
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6EH

Questionnaire for consultation on statistics for *maintained schools and academies: inspections and outcomes*

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? _____

The questionnaire

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

Question 1

We are considering reducing the frequency of maintained schools outcomes official statistics releases from four releases per year to three releases per year. If these statistical releases were supplemented with regular management information, published every month, would this be sufficient to meet your needs?

(Please refer to paragraphs 7 to 9)

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 reporting inspections in the academic year to date as opposed to reporting inspections in the previous quarter. Do you agree that this would improve the way in which we report on the outcomes of school inspections?

(Please refer to paragraphs 11 to 14)

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

Do you have any comments on this?

Question 3

We are considering providing additional tables to allow users to compare the most recent inspection outcomes of LA maintained schools, academy converters, sponsored academies and free schools. Do you agree that this information would be helpful? (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

We are considering combining the information found in Tables 2a to 2e (School inspection outcomes in the previous period by phase) into Table 2 (School inspection outcomes in the previous period). Do you agree that this change would allow you to better compare data across different phases? (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 5

To streamline the release, are you happy for us to remove the following tables?

Table	Table title	Yes	No	Don't know
4a	Schools in special measures at end of previous quarter (provisional)			
4b	Schools having serious weaknesses at end of previous quarter (provisional)			
4c	Schools removed from special measures during previous quarter (provisional)			
4d	Schools removed from serious weaknesses during previous quarter (provisional)			

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 6

We are considering reducing the number of tables and charts that we publish revisions for. The provisional dataset published would take into account any revisions to the previous period. Are you happy with this change?

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

If you have responded 'No' or 'Don't know' to the above, please say which tables/charts you think should be updated in the following period and why.

Other improvements

Question 7

How useful is the *maintained schools and academies: inspections and outcomes* release 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 8

Do you have any other further comments relevant to this release that you would like to make?

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:

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Ofsted
2 Rivergate
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6EH

Email: inspectioninsight@ofsted.gov.uk