

Planned changes to official statistics

Early years registered providers inspection outcomes, and actions and recommendations issued at inspection

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Introduction

1. Since the start of the current inspection cycle in September 2008, Ofsted publishes quarterly statistics on the most recent inspection outcomes for all providers registered with Ofsted on the Early Years Register that are still active¹ at the end of the quarter. We also publish the most recent actions and recommendations issued at inspection for these active providers.
2. From the next publication of these statistics, showing data on inspections up to the end of June 2011, we intend to make additions and changes to the published statistics. In accordance with Principle 2, Practice 4 of the UK Statistics Authority *Code of practice for official statistics*, this paper describes in full the changes to be made. The changes are part of Ofsted's strategy to make more data and analysis available to the public, and to improve the relevance of the statistics. At the same time, Ofsted will increase compliance with the UK Statistics Authority code of practice² and the public data principles³.

Coverage and presentation

3. The statistics will be presented with key findings and commentary to help users understand the main messages arising from the information. In response to a common request from users, some information on trends over time will also be included.
4. Additional analysis and data will be added to the official statistics on inspection outcomes of early years registered providers. The way that official statistics on actions and recommendations issued at inspection are currently reported will be changed to make them more intuitive and useful.
5. In addition to reporting on the most recent inspection outcomes for all early years registered providers that are still active at the end of the quarter, since the start of the current cycle in September 2008, the following analysis and data will be added. Annex 1 shows a provisional list of the tables and analysis that will be presented in the new official statistics release.

Childcare Register inspection outcomes

6. The official statistics will be extended to include inspection outcomes for providers registered with Ofsted on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register (CCR).

¹ Active providers are those who have not resigned, nor had their registration suspended or cancelled by Ofsted.

² *Code of practice for official statistics*, UK Statistics Authority, 2009;
www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html.

³ http://data.gov.uk/wiki/Public_Data_Principles

7. Up to now, Ofsted has only regularly reported outcomes for inspections where providers on the Early Years Register (EYR) are judged on the quality and standards of the provision in relation to the welfare, learning and development of children as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The statistics will now be extended to include statistics on providers' compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register, where the provider is registered on the CCR. Data on CCR compliance will be presented in a similar way to the statistics on EYR inspection outcomes (for example, showing the breakdown by local authority), and will also be shown separately for providers registered on both the EYR and CCR, and those only registered on one of these^{4,5}.

Registers

8. Where the most recent inspection outcome for providers is shown, it will relate to the register that the provider was on at the end of the period in question.
9. Providers that are registered on the EYR, or both the EYR and CCR, may choose to leave the EYR and join or remain on the CCR, retaining the same registration. If a provider registered with Ofsted on the CCR wishes to join the EYR, a new registration is required. At present the official statistics show the registration of the provider at the time of the inspection. At the end of March 2011, less than 0.2% of active providers with EYR inspection outcomes were no longer on the EYR. As the analysis is intended to give a picture of the quality of childcare available, it seems counterintuitive to include early years inspection outcomes for providers that no longer offer this kind of childcare. While the impact at the national level is minimal, it is more noticeable at the local authority level; it will increase as the inspection cycle continues, and it makes it difficult to link together the official statistics on inspection outcomes with the official statistics on childcare providers and places. Therefore, these inspection outcomes will in future be excluded from the analysis of the most recent inspection outcomes for active providers.

⁴ For further information on how Ofsted registers and inspects care provided for children, please see the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Care-and-local-services/Childcare.

⁵ Ofsted also inspects some providers who are registered solely on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register (VCR). We will consider including these in the official statistics in a future phase of development.

Inactive providers

10. Inspection outcome statistics will be presented separately for providers that are inactive at the end of the period in question. This is not an analysis that is regularly published now, and it will allow comparisons of inspection outcomes between providers that are active and those that have left the sector, such as that shown in Her Majesty's Chief Inspector's Annual Report 2009/10⁶.

No children on roll inspections

11. The official statistics release will include statistics on the outcomes of inspections where there are no children on roll (NCOR) at the time of the inspection.
12. If an inspection is scheduled and there are no children on roll at the time, it will usually be deferred, except where:
 - it is towards the end of a provider's prescribed period for inspection and an inspection needs to be carried out for Ofsted to fulfil its regulatory role
 - it is a re-inspection of those judged as inadequate at their last inspection and it has reached the trigger point for the inspection.
13. The usual range of judgements is not made at NCOR inspections. The inspector assesses whether the provider is able to demonstrate satisfactory understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and how they will meet the needs of each child cared for. The outcome of the inspection will be one of the following.
 - Met.
 - Not met – actions.
 - Not met – enforcement action.
14. Providers must also confirm that they meet the requirements of the Childcare Register if applicable.
15. If a provider is found to be inadequate, and is then inspected as an NCOR inspection where the outcome is one of 'met', they are no longer considered to be inadequate. At present these inspection outcomes are not included in the official statistics which means that these providers are only shown as being inadequate. Feedback from users, particularly local authorities, has highlighted that this is potentially misleading. As such, the outcomes of NCOR inspections will be included in the official statistics, broken down by the previous inspection outcome where the provider has been inspected since the start of the current

⁶ *The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2009/10*, page 18, Figure 4; www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Annual-Report-2009-10.

inspection cycle in September 2008. So, where the official statistics show the number and percentage of providers that were judged inadequate at their most recent full inspection, it will be possible to then refer to the outcomes of NCOR inspections to see if any have subsequently received this type of inspection, and if so, what the outcome was⁷.

Inspection activity

16. The number and outcomes of inspections of providers that took place during the quarter in question will now be released as part of the official statistics. Data have not been made available in this way before. However, we regularly receive information requests indicating that users often wish to answer different questions for which they need to analyse all inspection outcomes.

Actions and recommendations issued at inspection

17. In future, the official statistics will show the total number of inspections where at least one action was issued, as a percentage of inspections carried out during the period in question. Similar analysis will be included for recommendations issued at inspection: the total number of inspections where recommendations were issued as a percentage of inspections carried out during the period. The figures for actions and recommendations will also be broken down by the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, as they are now.
18. At the moment, the official statistics report on the number of inspections where: at least one action to meet the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage was issued to the provider; the provider has carried out the action; and the provider is still active at the end of the period. Similarly, the statistics report on the number of inspections where at least one recommendation for improvement was issued and the provider is still active at the end of the period. These figures are then shown as a percentage of active providers inspected at the end of the period, to illustrate the proportion of providers that have had actions and recommendations issued. The actions and recommendations may not come from the most recent inspection. For example, if a provider has been inspected more than once since the beginning of the cycle, but there were no actions issued at the most recent inspection, we then go back to look at inspection immediately before that to check if any actions were issued then. On the other hand, if actions were issued at both inspections, only the most recent would be included in the statistics.

⁷ For more information on inspections where there are no children on roll, please see the inspection guidance on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080173.

19. Having reviewed this methodology, we now consider that it is potentially confusing for users, and so we plan to change the statistics to show the number of inspections where at least one action, or recommendation, was issued at inspection in the period in question, and also to present these as a percentage of the inspections carried out during the period. We believe that this will better meet the user need for these statistics, which is to illustrate where providers need to improve to meet the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, or can improve their practice. Data will be provided back to the beginning of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008.

Individual data on inspection outcomes

20. In line with government transparency, the dataset underpinning the summary statistics will be released. This will allow users to carry out their own analysis on the data as they wish. This will be similar to the way Ofsted currently releases details of inspection of maintained schools.⁸

Frequency

21. Early years registered providers inspection outcomes, and actions and recommendations issued at inspections of early years registered providers, will continue to be published four times a year.

Periodicity

22. Data will be presented on a monthly and quarterly basis.
23. At present, the statistics show the position at the end of the quarter for all active providers, covering inspections that have taken place since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage, and the associated inspection framework, in September 2008. From the next release, the position at the end of each month of the quarter will also be presented, so that users can choose the most relevant point in time for their analysis and aggregate the data as they wish. This also applies to the statistics that we intend to add to the publication. Other Ofsted official statistics will be adopting the same approach, for example, it will be much easier for users of our statistics to compare Early Years Foundation Stage outcomes across early years registered providers and maintained schools.

⁸ See www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/20110005.

Timing

24. The official statistics will be released in the third month after the end of the quarter in question. For the next release, this will be in early September 2011.
25. At present, the statistical release is published on the last Thursday of the month following the end of the quarter. This is based on a snapshot of our database as it stands on the last day of the quarter. We include all inspections where the inspection has been published. We also include inspections where the inspection report is due to be published imminently, on the assumption that by the time the official statistics are released, these inspection reports will have been published.
26. With the addition of individual inspection outcomes for providers, to allow users to create their own analysis (see coverage section for more detail) it is no longer acceptable for us to include inspections in our analysis where the inspection reports have not yet been published. Therefore the official statistics will only include inspection outcomes where the inspection report has been published.
27. The majority of inspection reports are published within 20 days of the inspection being carried out. If we retained our current publication schedule, we have estimated that as much as 60% of the inspection activity in the last month of the quarter would be excluded from the analysis. To ensure the statistics for a quarter are as complete as possible, but still released in a timely fashion, they will be compiled based on information held one month after the end of the quarter.
28. The current official statistics release is produced within four weeks of the data becoming available. However, it will take slightly longer to produce the additional statistics, key findings and commentary, and this will be taken into account determining the publication dates. The release will always be available by the end of the quarter following the quarter in question.

Provisional statistics and revisions policy

29. The official statistics will be provisional when first published, and will be revised at subsequent publications.
30. At present, the official statistics are never revised. This means that users do not benefit from later information collected on our administrative system about inspections that have taken place in any particular quarter. As noted above, official statistics will be largely, but not wholly, complete when first published. They will therefore be released as 'provisional statistics' under the *Code of practice for official statistics*. This means that the information contained in the release is fully validated and quality assured, but some information is missing.

31. Provisional statistics will be revised at the next quarterly release, and possibly subsequently, in line with a revisions policy that Ofsted will publish on its website. The extra three-month period will, except in very exceptional circumstances, be sufficient for all providers inspected during a quarter to have their reports published, and the outcomes, actions and recommendations included in the revised statistics. Only updated information on inspections carried out during the period will be revised; information about the providers (such as which register they are on, and whether they are active or inactive) will usually remain as it was at the end of the period in question.

Feedback

32. If you have any questions or comments about the planned changes to official statistics outlined in this document, please contact the Early Years Insight team by email at inspectioninsight@ofsted.gov.uk or by writing to the Early Years Insight team, Inspection Data and Insight, at:

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7th Floor, Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE.

Annex 1. Provisional list of tables and analyses

33. Below is a provisional list of tables and analyses that will form the official statistics release on early years and childcare inspection outcomes, and actions and recommendations issued at inspection, from the next release of these statistics in early September 2011. The release will include all the information outlined earlier in this document. However, the number, titles and order of tables and analyses as listed here is subject to change as we develop our systems and analysis over the coming months.

Title	Data broken down by:
Table 1 Number of early years, childcare and no children on roll (NCOR) inspections that have taken place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Month and quarter ▪ Local authority ▪ Type of inspection ▪ Type of provider
Table 2 Early years registered providers inspection outcomes for all inspections that have taken place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Month and quarter ▪ Local authority ▪ Type of provider ▪ Registration of provider (EYR, CCR and VCR, or any combination of these)
Table 3 Compulsory childcare registered providers inspection outcomes for all inspections that have taken place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Month and quarter ▪ Local authority ▪ Type of provider ▪ Registration of provider (EYR, CCR and VCR, or any combination of these)
Table 4 No children on roll (NCOR) inspection outcomes for all inspections that have taken place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Month and quarter ▪ Local authority ▪ Type of provider ▪ Registration of provider (EYR, CCR and VCR, or any combination of these)
Table 5 Early years registered providers inspection outcomes at the most recent inspection of active providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Month and quarter ▪ Local authority ▪ Type of provider ▪ Registration of provider (EYR, CCR and VCR, or any combination of these)
Table 6 Early years registered providers inspection outcomes at the most recent inspection of inactive providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Month and quarter ▪ Local authority ▪ Type of provider ▪ Registration of provider (EYR, CCR and VCR, or any combination of these)

Title	Data broken down by:
Table 7 Compulsory childcare registered providers inspection outcomes at the most recent inspection of active providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Month and quarter ▪ Local authority ▪ Type of provider ▪ Registration of provider (EYR, CCR and VCR, or any combination of these)
Table 8 Compulsory childcare registered providers inspection outcomes at the most recent inspection of inactive providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Month and quarter ▪ Local authority ▪ Type of provider ▪ Registration of provider (EYR, CCR and VCR, or any combination of these)
Table 9 No children on roll (NCOR) inspection outcomes at the most recent inspection of active providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Month and quarter ▪ Local authority ▪ Type of provider ▪ Registration of provider (EYR, CCR and VCR, or any combination of these) ▪ Previous inspection outcome
Table 10 No children on roll (NCOR) inspection outcomes at the most recent inspection of inactive providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Month and quarter ▪ Local authority ▪ Type of provider ▪ Registration of provider (EYR, CCR and VCR, or any combination of these) ▪ Previous inspection outcome
Table 11 Overall effectiveness of early years registered providers at the most recent inspection of active providers (local authority comparison)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Month and quarter ▪ Local authority ▪ Type of provider ▪ Inspection judgement
Figure 1 Overall effectiveness of early years registered childminders over time	
Figure 2 Overall effectiveness of childcare providers on non-domestic premises over time	