

Inspection visits to further education and skills providers judged to require improvement

Consultation document

This is a consultation on Ofsted's proposals about inspection visits to further education and skills providers judged to require improvement.

The consultation closes on 22 December 2017.

If you would like a version of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231 or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

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Corporate member of
Plain English Campaign
Committed to clearer communication

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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. In September 2012, Ofsted introduced an inspection judgement of 'requires improvement' to further education and skills inspections. A provider judged to require improvement is re-inspected within 12 to 24 months of the inspection.
3. Since 2013, Ofsted has been carrying out support and challenge visits to providers judged to require improvement, resulting in unpublished letters.¹
4. While around 80% of providers are currently good or outstanding, our evidence shows that:
 - too few providers are improving from requires improvement to good
 - overall, the proportion of providers judged to require improvement has increased.
5. We feel the time is now right to review our approach to providers that require improvement.
6. We are proposing that for providers that are judged to require improvement, instead of carrying out support and challenge visits that result in unpublished letters, we conduct a **single monitoring visit** with a **published report** that has **progress judgements**.
7. We are proposing to make this change because:
 - using progress judgements and publishing reports will provide a clearer sense of direction and help providers improve
 - we need to be more transparent in what we do so that learners, apprentices and employers can also see the progress providers are making
 - we want to ensure that our constrained resources are directed to where they will have the most impact.
8. Published monitoring visit reports will tell readers:
 - what the provider has achieved since the last inspection and what improvement they still need to make

¹ This arrangement is set out in this publication: www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-and-challenge-for-further-education-and-skills-providers

- show what steps the provider has taken to tackle the weaknesses identified at the previous inspection and how effective these steps have been.
9. We are proposing that this single monitoring visit will take place around 7 to 13 months after the inspection at which the provider was judged to require improvement. This will apply to any provider found to require improvement from the beginning of this consultation (10 November 2017), subject to the outcome of this consultation.

The consultation process

10. We would like to hear your views on the suggested changes.
11. This consultation opens on 10 November 2017 and closes on 22 December 2017.
12. Your views will inform how we inspect to check the progress made by further education and skills providers judged to require improvement.
13. We will publish a response to the consultation in February 2018.

Sending back your response

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

■ Online electronic questionnaire:

Visit our website to complete and submit an electronic version of the response form: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/OfstedVisits.

■ Download and email

Visit our website to download a Word version of this document, the response form can be found on page 6 of the document. This can be completed on your computer:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/inspection-visits-to-further-education-and-skills-providers-judged-to-require-improvement

When you have completed the form, please email it to fes@ofsted.gov.uk with the consultation name in the subject line.

■ Print and post

Visit our website to print a Word or PDF version of this document. The response form can be found on page 6 of the document. This can be filled in by hand:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/inspection-visits-to-further-education-and-skills-providers-judged-to-require-improvement

When you have completed it, please post it to:

FES team
Ofsted
8th floor
Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

Questionnaire for consultation on inspection visits to further education and skills providers judged to require improvement

Confidentiality

The information you provide will be held by us. It will only be used for the purposes of consultation and research to help us to become more effective, influence policies and inform inspection and regulatory practice. We will treat your identity in confidence, if you disclose it to us.

Question

We are proposing that, for providers that are judged to require improvement, instead of carrying out support and challenge visits that result in unpublished letters, we conduct a **single monitoring visit** with a **published report** that has **progress judgements**.

Do you agree with this proposed change?

For more information about this proposal, see pages 3 and 4 of this consultation document.

Do you...

Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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Please add any comments to your views on our proposal:

About you

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

No

Yes – Name of organisation: _____

If you would like us to consider publishing your views, please tick this box.

In what capacity are you completing this survey?

Learner/student/apprentice	<input type="checkbox"/>	New provider	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional/membership body organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grade 1 or 2 further education and skills provider	<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of the public	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grade 3 or 4 further education and skills provider	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (please specify)			

What did you think of this consultation?

One of the commitments in our strategic plan is to monitor whether our users can easily find our consultations.

How did you hear about this consultation?

- Direct communication from Ofsted
- Gov.uk
- *Ofsted News*, Ofsted's monthly newsletter
- Ofsted conference
- Twitter (@ofstednews)
- Another organisation (please specify, if known)
- Other (please specify)

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 gov.uk 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 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	

6. Disability

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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