

Non-association independent schools inspections and outcomes: frequency of publication of statistics

A report on the responses to the consultation

This is a report on the outcomes of the consultation on proposals to change the frequency of publishing statistics on inspections and outcomes for non-association independent schools. Our proposals include publishing management information on a regular basis.

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Age group: 4–16

Published: November 2017

Reference no: 170025



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Plain English Campaign
Committed to clearer communication

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Introduction

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.

About the consultation

2. The consultation on the proposals sought views to find out how Ofsted can make the release of statistics for non-association schools more timely and user-friendly. These proposals included:
 - changes to the publication frequency of 'Non-association independent schools: inspections and outcomes' official statistics', by reducing the number of releases of official statistics from two to one a year
 - publishing additional management information on non-association independent schools three times each year.
3. The consultation ran from 20 July 2017 to 14 September 2017.

The consultation method

4. The consultation was available through:
 - an online questionnaire on the Ofsted website
 - Word and PDF formats to return by email or to print and complete by hand.
5. We used a range of communication methods to ensure that we reached a wide variety of people who have an interest in, and use of, school inspection outcomes statistics.
6. A link to the consultation was provided in the most recent publication of the official statistics 'Non-association independent schools inspections and outcomes official statistics as at 31 March 2017' which was published on 20 July 2017, shortly after the consultation was launched. This meant that all regular users of our statistics were aware of the consultation.
7. A link to the consultation was shared multiple times on Twitter, through the @ofstednews twitter account. This account has 162,000 followers. An email was sent to key stakeholders with an interest in non-association school inspections data.
8. We received most of the responses via the online questionnaire and a small number by email. We received seven completed responses, with a further three responses that were partly completed, but did not have a response to the consultation proposal question.

9. See the annex at the end of this document for details of the groups that responded.

Summary of findings

10. Respondents support the proposal.
11. Of the seven completed responses, five supported both our proposals – to reduce the number of releases of official statistics from two to one per year and to publish management information three times each year.
12. Based on these findings, we will make all of the changes proposed as part of the consultation. We will not publish the official statistics publication previously planned for June 2018. The next publication will now be in November 2018. We will begin publishing additional management information from early 2018.

Findings in full

13. The question was as follows:
 - We propose to reduce the number of releases of Official statistics from twice to once per year and publish management information on non-association independent schools three times each year.
14. Of the 10 responses received for this question, only seven responded to the proposal. Of those, one strongly agreed with the proposal; four responses agreed; one neither agreed nor disagreed; and one disagreed.
15. Some respondents commented that publishing the official statistics release once a year and releasing management information more regularly would bring independent schools in line with inspection reporting for other school types, and so made sense.
16. In light of this feedback, we will make this change.

The way forward

17. We greatly appreciate the time spent by those individuals and organisations who responded to the consultation. We will make these changes during the 2017/18 academic year.
18. We will change the frequency of publication from twice to once a year. The release will comment on all inspections that have taken place in the academic year until the end of the reporting period and that have been published. We will no longer publish statistics in June of each year, from June 2018.
19. We will also start publishing management information three times a year.

20. The schedule for the these releases will be as follows:

- management information published in January/February (on inspections conducted from the previous September to December, plus the most recent inspection outcomes of all open schools at the end of December)
- management information published in April/May (on inspections conducted from September to March, plus the most recent inspection outcomes of all open schools at the end of March)
- management information published in August/September (on inspections conducted from September to July, plus the most recent inspection outcomes of all open schools at the end of July)
- official statistics published in November/December (which would cover inspections conducted from September to August, including those published in September plus the most recent inspection outcomes of all open schools, at the end of August).

Annex

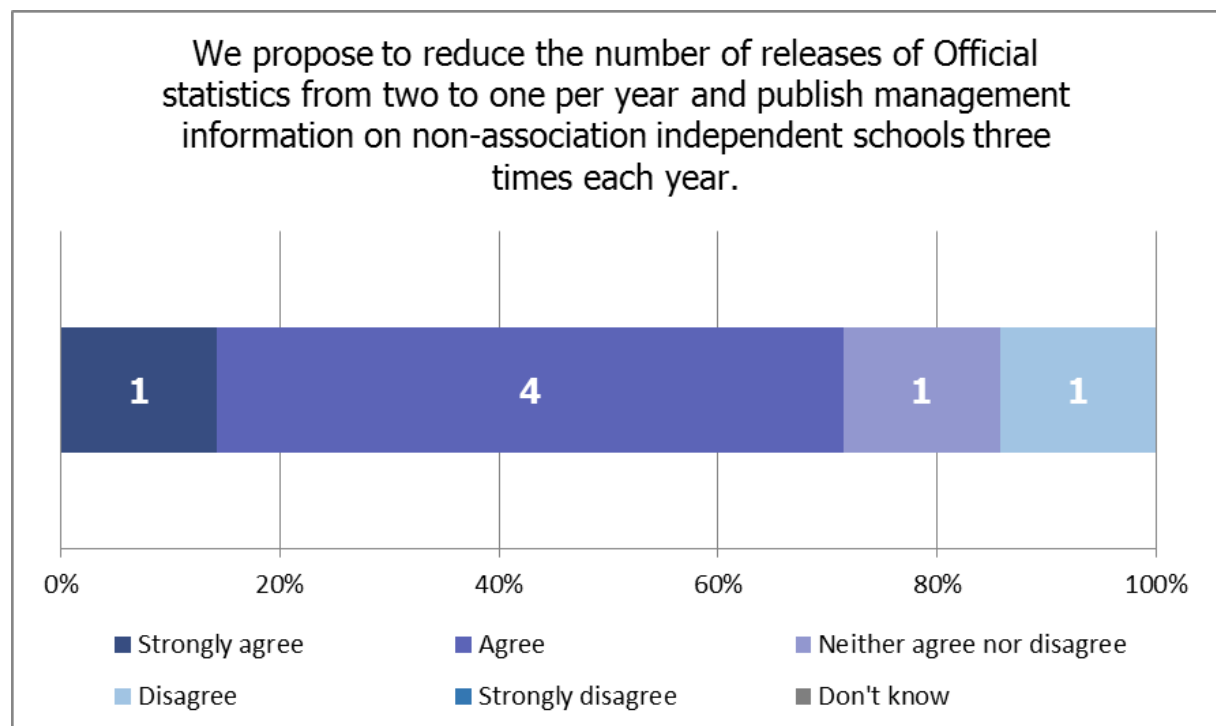
Question 1: We propose to reduce the number of releases of official statistics from two to once per year; and publish management information on non-association independent schools three times each year.

For more information about this proposal see paragraphs 9 to 13 of this consultation document.

Do you

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please add any comments to support your response



One response provided an additional comment:

- 'This would bring it in line with inspection reporting for other school types so makes sense.'

Types of external organisations we had responses from:

Three of the responses were given on behalf of a named organisation. These are as follows:

- one professional organisation
- one local authority
- one employed in a school (e.g. teacher, headteacher, governor, proprietor, etc.).

The other completed responses were from:

- two parents
- one person with an interest in our data
- one who preferred not to say.



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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.gov.uk/ofsted

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