

Further education and skills inspections and outcomes

This release contains:

- provisional data for the most recent inspections and outcomes as at 31 August 2018
- provisional data for inspections conducted between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018
- revised data for inspections conducted between 1 September 2017 and 28 February 2018.

The number of further education and skills providers has increased by 44%

The apprenticeship funding reforms introduced in April 2017 have increased the number of further education and skills providers. As at 31 August 2018 there were 1,682 open and funded providers, an increase of 514 since 31 August 2017.

New provider monitoring visits found 82% of providers to be making at least reasonable progress

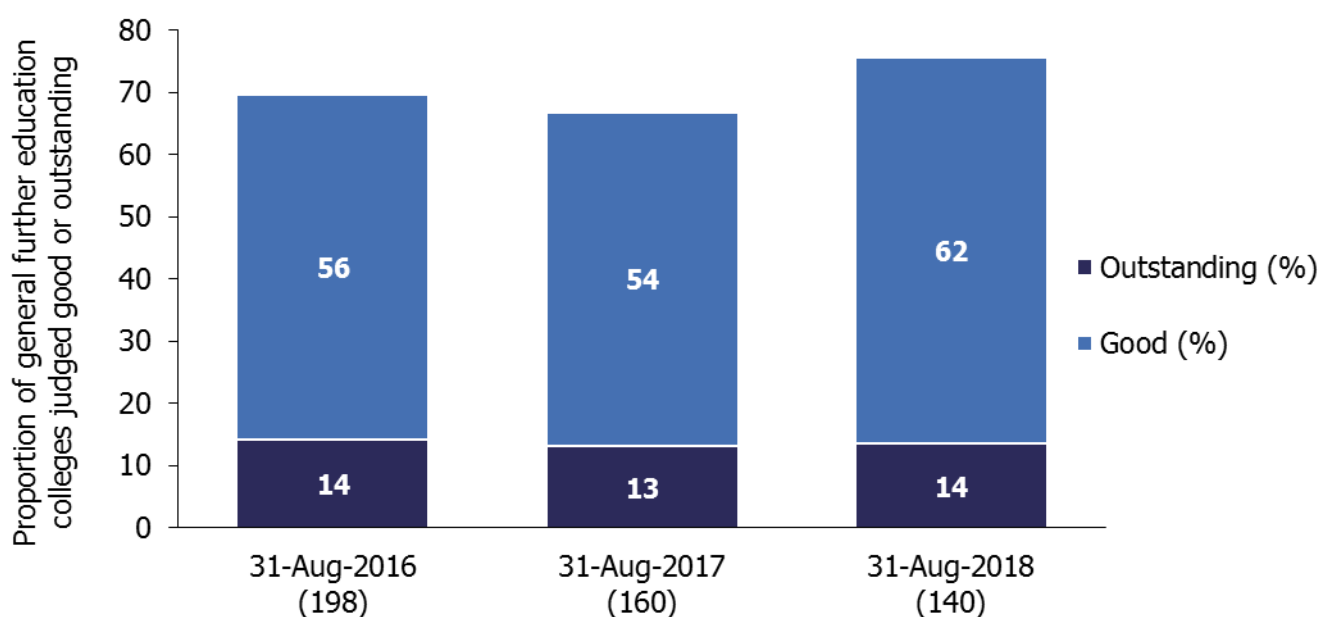
Since their introduction in February 2018, 61 new provider monitoring visits have been carried out. From these visits, 82% of providers were found to be making at least reasonable progress across all judgements.

The proportion of general further education colleges judged good or outstanding has increased by nine percentage points

The proportion of general further education colleges judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection was 76% as at 31 August 2018. This is nine percentage points higher than as at 31 August 2017 (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Proportion of general further education colleges judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection, over time

Number of providers in brackets



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Introduction

In-year inspection outcomes

Between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, 329 further education and skills providers were inspected. These included 89 colleges, 115 independent learning providers (including employer providers), 75 community learning and skills providers and 50 inspections of other further education and skills providers. Ofsted also contributed to 41 prison and young offender institution inspections, where the reports were published by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018.

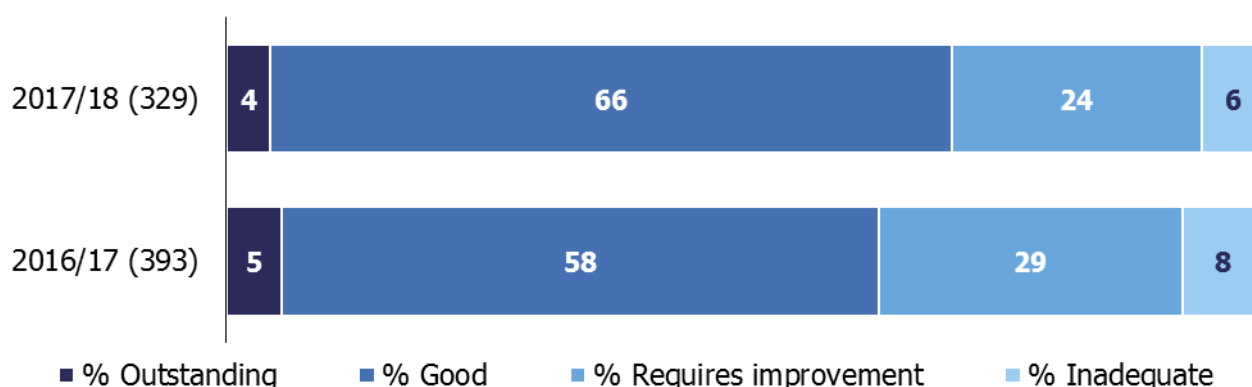
The 329 further education and skills inspections consisted of 187 full inspections and 142 short inspections (including those that converted to full inspections). These inspections can be broken down in to the following categories:

- 142 short inspections of previously good providers (including those that converted to a full inspection)
- 92 routine full inspections of providers previously judged requires improvement or inadequate
- 50 risk-assessed full inspections of previously good or outstanding providers
- 40 full inspections of providers that were inspected for the first time
- five full inspections of outstanding providers that were subject to routine inspection.¹

Between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 the proportion of providers judged good or outstanding was 70%, seven percentage points higher than in the last reporting year (1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017).

Figure 2: Further education and skills providers’ full and short inspection outcomes, by reporting year

Number of inspections in brackets



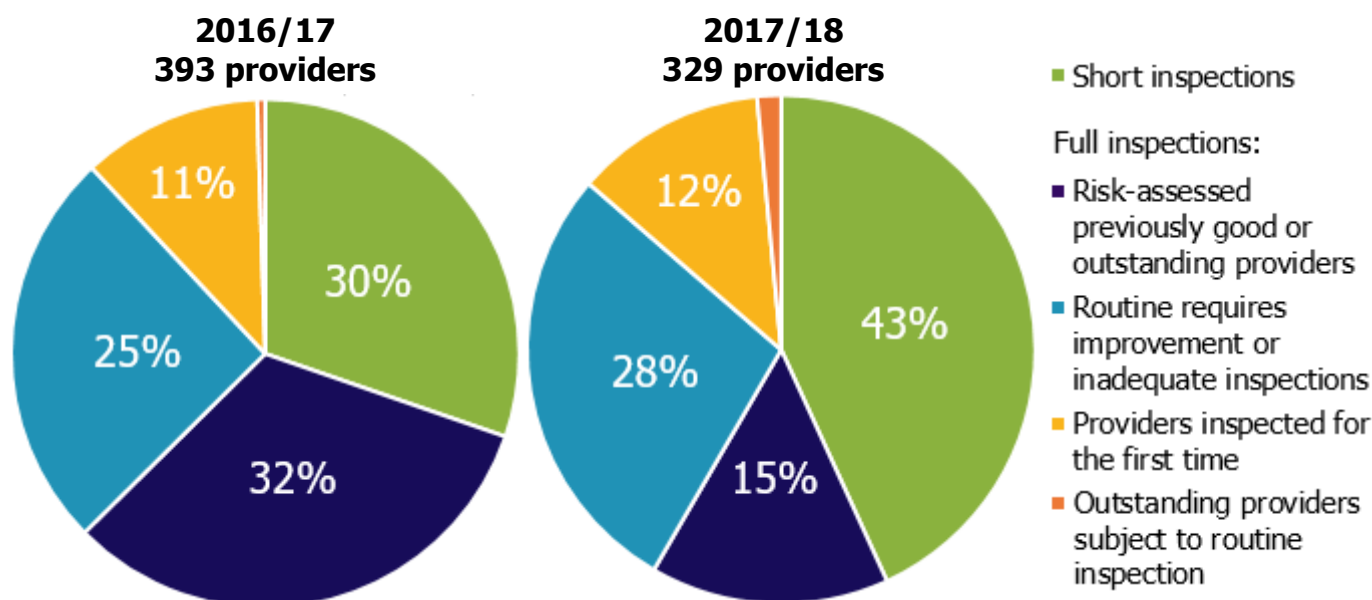
¹ The following provider types remain subject to routine inspection when judged outstanding: higher education institutions offering further education, local authority providers, independent specialist colleges and dance and drama colleges.

There are two contributing factors that have led to the higher proportion of providers judged good or outstanding this reporting year:

- a higher proportion of short inspections of previously good providers being carried out
- a higher proportion of providers previously judged requires improvement improving at inspection this year.

This year, as the first cycle of short inspections has ended (introduced on 1 September 2015), a much higher proportion of short inspections have been carried out compared with last year.

Figure 3: Proportion of providers selected for inspection, by inspection type and reporting year



As well as carrying out an increased proportion of short inspections, a higher proportion of these inspections resulted in the provider remaining good compared with last year. Of the 142 short inspections, 93% of providers remained good or improved to outstanding, compared with 89% in the last reporting year.

Conversely there was a smaller proportion of risk-assessed full inspections of providers previously judged good or outstanding. Although the outcomes of risk-assessed full inspections carried out this reporting year were similar to last year, the balance of risk-assessed full inspections versus short inspections was tipped towards short inspections.

There was a small increase in the proportion of routine full inspections of providers that were previously judged requires improvement. However, outcomes from these inspections were higher this reporting year, with 66% of the providers improving to be good compared with 56% last reporting year.

In-year safeguarding judgements

Of the 329 providers inspected between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, the overwhelming majority (319) had effective safeguarding arrangements in place for learners. Ten providers were judged not to have effective safeguarding arrangements in place: eight independent learning providers (including employer providers), one local authority provider and one specialist further education college.

In the providers that did not have effective safeguarding arrangements in place, inspectors found:

- a failure to implement safeguarding policies and procedures to protect learners
- leaders and managers had been slow in implementing the 'Prevent' duty
- learners were not equipped with the necessary knowledge to ensure they could keep themselves safe
- a failure to ensure adequate risk assessments had been carried out.

In-year monitoring visit outcomes

This year, Ofsted introduced new provider monitoring visits for providers that had not yet been inspected and that were receiving funding through the apprenticeship levy. Due to the large growth in the number of providers entering the market, we visited a sample of providers to find out if there was a potential risk to the quality of apprenticeships.

Between February 2018 (when they were introduced) and 31 August 2018, 61 new provider monitoring visits were carried out. Nine were to employer providers and 52 to independent learning providers. Ofsted judged 82% of the providers to be making at least reasonable progress in all areas.

Table 1: New provider monitoring visit outcomes, between 1 February 2018 and 31 August 2018

	Number of providers		
	Insufficient progress	Reasonable progress	Significant progress
How much progress have leaders made in ensuring that the provider is meeting all the requirements of successful apprenticeship provision?	10	42	9
What progress have leaders and managers made in ensuring that apprentices benefit from high-quality training that leads to positive outcomes for apprentices?	8	45	8
How much progress have leaders and managers made in ensuring that effective safeguarding arrangements are in place?	3	55	3

Where a provider is judged to have made insufficient progress with respect to safeguarding, they will normally receive a further monitoring visit to review their safeguarding arrangements within four months of the initial monitoring visit. We revisited one provider during 2017/18 and at that second visit judged the provider to be making significant progress towards safeguarding its apprentices. The other two will be revisited during the next reporting period.

Most recent inspection outcomes

As at 31 August 2018, there were 1,682 open and funded further education and skills providers recorded on the Ofsted systems, an increase of 44% compared with 31 August 2017. This increase was largely as a result of the apprenticeship funding reforms introduced in April 2017, which significantly changed the further education and skills landscape.

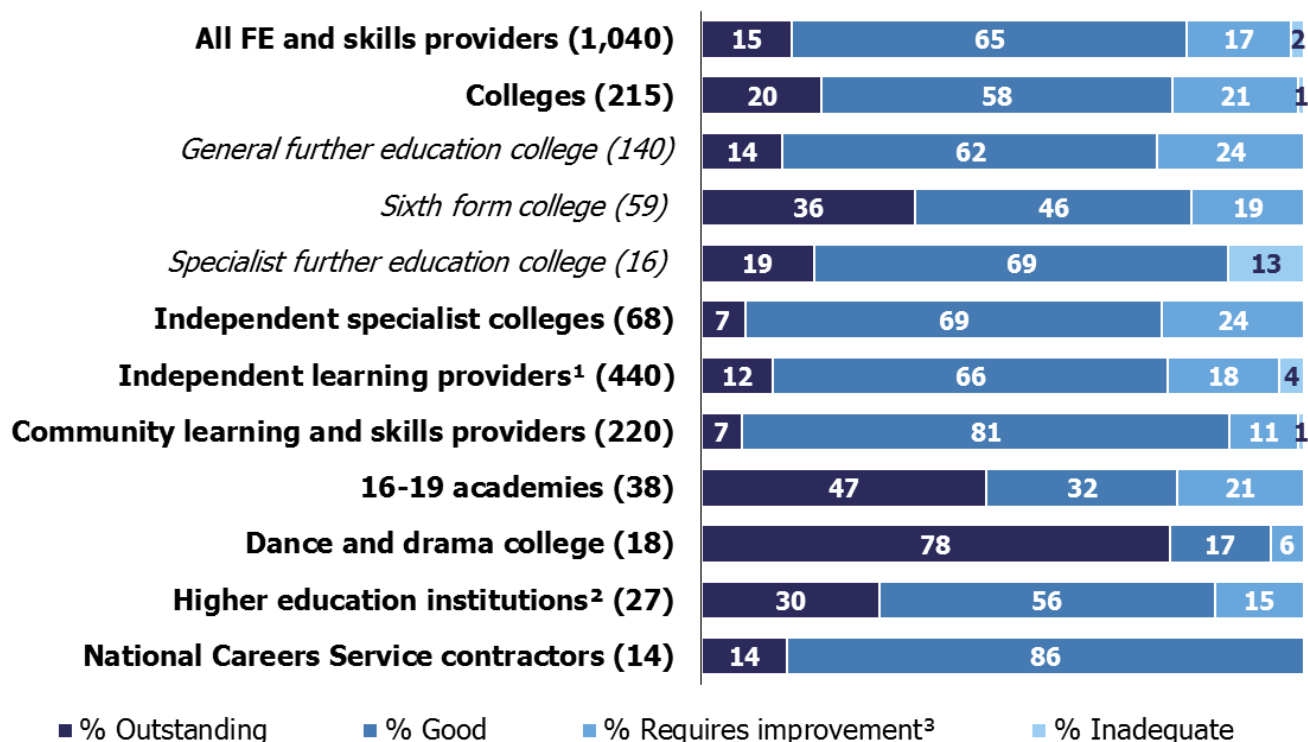
Each year, the number of providers subject to an inspection will change as contracts to provide education, training and apprenticeships are won and lost. Historically, at any given point in the year, we will have inspected the quality of education and training in around 90% of the providers. The remaining providers falling within our commitment to inspect new providers within their first three years of operation.

Many of these additional providers will not have been inspected by Ofsted in the past. As a result, the proportion of providers that had been inspected dropped by 26 percentage points, from 88% as at 31 August 2017 to 62% as at 31 August 2018.

Of the 1,040 providers that had been inspected, the overall proportion of providers judged good or outstanding as at 31 August 2018 was 81%, one percentage point higher than as at 31 August 2017.

Figure 4: Overall effectiveness of further education (FE) and skills providers at their most recent inspection, as at 31 August 2018

Number of providers in brackets



1. Includes employer providers.
2. Inspection of further education provision only, not provider as a whole.
3. Prior to 1 September 2012, providers with an inspection outcome of grade 3 were judged as satisfactory.
4. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100. Where the number of providers is small, percentages should be treated with caution.

The proportion of providers judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection increased in two out of the three largest provider groups. General further education colleges had the largest increase at nine percentage points. Followed by community learning and skills providers at five percentage points. These increases were balanced out by the continued decline in the proportion of independent learning providers (including employer providers) judged good or outstanding. This meant that the overall proportion judged good or outstanding increased by one percentage point.

Main findings

General further education colleges

Between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, the number of general further education (FE) colleges continued to decline, from 189 to 178. This reduction was the result of general FE colleges merging with other providers. Following these mergers, 11 general FE colleges are now no longer reported on separately. Having been subject to mergers, another 11 general FE colleges will now be treated as new providers, not carrying forward their previous inspection judgement. The most recent inspection outcomes for the 22 general FE colleges involved were:

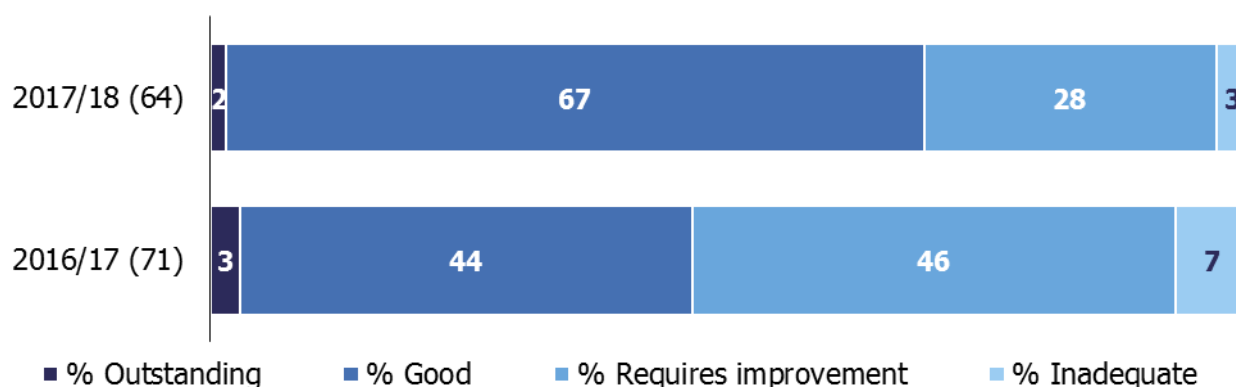
- 13 colleges judged good
- six colleges judged requires improvement
- three colleges judged inadequate.

As at 31 August 2018, 38 of the 178 general FE colleges did not have an overall effectiveness grade: one new college awaiting its first full inspection and 37 colleges that had formed through a merger. As set out in our inspection handbook, new providers will normally be inspected within three years. Where colleges that are judged requires improvement or inadequate merge we continue to engage with them through support and challenge or monitoring visits. All colleges that have formed through a merger will be inspected within a maximum of three years, and will also receive a monitoring visit prior to this inspection.

Between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, 64 general FE colleges were inspected. These inspections comprised of 50 full inspections and 14 short inspections (including one that converted to a full inspection). The overall proportion of general FE colleges judged good or outstanding during this reporting year was 69%, 22 percentage points higher than last year.

Figure 5: General further education college full and short inspection outcomes, by reporting year

Number of inspections in brackets



The higher proportion of general FE colleges judged to be good this year is largely the result of colleges that previously required improvement or were inadequate improving to

good. Between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, 19 out of 29 general FE colleges that previously required improvement or were inadequate improved to good. During the previous reporting year, nine out of 29 general FE colleges improved to be good.

Table 2: General further education college inspection outcomes between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, by previous overall effectiveness and type of inspection

Previous overall effectiveness	Type of inspection	Total number of inspections	Overall effectiveness (number)			
			Outstanding	Good ¹	Requires improvement	Inadequate
Outstanding	Full	3	0	2	1	0
Good	Full	15	0	8	7	0
Good	Short (including conversions)	14	1	13	0	0
Requires improvement	Full	26	0	18	7	1
Inadequate	Full	3	0	1	1	1
Not previously inspected	Full	3	0	1	2	0
Total		64	1	43	18	2

Improved to good or outstanding
 Declined to requires improvement or inadequate

1. Includes the overall effectiveness judgement from full inspections and those that remained good after a short inspection.

The inspections carried out this year have had a positive effect on the most recent inspection outcomes. As at 31 August 2018, the proportion of general FE colleges judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection was 76%, nine percentage points higher than the 67% as at 31 August 2017. This increase was largely the result of a higher proportion of general FE colleges improving to be good at inspection this year.

As at 31 August 2018, there were no general FE colleges judged to be inadequate. This is four less than as at 31 August 2017. One of those four improved to good at inspection this reporting year and the other three have been subject to a merger.

Sixth form colleges and 16 to 19 academies

Sixth form colleges

Between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, the number of sixth form colleges reduced by 18, from 79 to 61. This decrease is the result of 13 sixth form colleges converting to become 16 to 19 academies and five merging with other providers.

Eleven of the 13 sixth form colleges that converted to become 16 to 19 academies were judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection. Four sixth form colleges merged with general FE colleges and one with another sixth form college. Of those sixth

form colleges that merged four were judged good at their most recent inspection and one requires improvement.

As at 31 August 2018, all but two of the 61 sixth form colleges had been inspected. The remaining two have been subject to a merger and will be inspected within three years. Sixth form colleges that have merged will no longer be reported on separately.

Between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, 19 sixth form colleges were inspected. There were 12 full inspections and seven short inspections (one of which converted to a full inspection). Thirteen out of the 19 were judged good or outstanding.

Overall, the proportion of sixth form colleges judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection was 81% as at 31 August 2018. This is a slight increase (0.8 percentage points) compared with as at 31 August 2017.

16 to 19 academies

As at 31 August 2018, there were 46 16 to 19 academies, 15 more than as at 31 August 2017. This increase was largely the result of 13 sixth form colleges converting to become 16 to 19 academies. There was also a net increase of two free schools. As at 31 August 2018, 83% of the 16 to 19 academies had been inspected. There were eight 16 to 19 academies awaiting their first full inspection.²

Between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, nine 16 to 19 academies were inspected. There were six full inspections, of which four were judged to be requires improvement, one good and one outstanding. There were also three short inspections, one remained good and two converted and improved to outstanding.

As at 31 August 2018, the proportion of 16 to 19 academies judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection was 79%, six percentage points higher than as at 31 August 2017. Much of this increase can be attributed to sixth form colleges that have converted to become 16 to 19 academies since 31 August 2017 and retained their latest inspection outcome.

Independent learning providers (including employer providers)

Between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, the number of open and funded independent learning providers (including employer providers) more than doubled, increasing from 491 to 986. This is mainly as a result of the apprenticeship funding reforms introduced in April 2017. This reduced the proportion of providers that had been inspected from 82% as at 31 August 2017 to 45% as at 31 August 2018.

Between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, 102 independent learning providers and 13 employer providers were inspected. In total there were 62 full inspections and 53 short inspections (including those that converted to full inspections).

² This includes one 16 to 19 academy that was previously a school sixth form. It was judged outstanding under the schools 2012-2015 inspection framework. It has yet to be inspected under the common inspection framework as a further education and skills provider.

Overall 63% of independent learning providers (including employer providers) were judged good or outstanding during this reporting year, six percentage points higher than during 2016/17. This is largely caused by an increased proportion of inspections being short inspections of previously good providers, of which more remained good.

Around two thirds of the providers that had not previously been inspected were judged requires improvement or inadequate at inspection this year. This is a similar proportion to last year.

Table 3: Independent learning providers (including employer providers) inspection outcomes between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, by previous overall effectiveness and type of inspection

Previous overall effectiveness	Type of inspection	Total number of inspections	Overall effectiveness (number)			
			Outstanding	Good ¹	Requires improvement	Inadequate
Outstanding	Full	1	0	1	0	0
Good	Full	13	1	3	7	2
Good	Short (including conversions)	53	2	44	6	1
Requires improvement	Full	18	0	12	2	4
Inadequate	Full	3	0	0	2	1
Not previously inspected	Full	27	0	10	11	6
Total		115	3	70	28	14

Improved to good or outstanding
 Declined to requires improvement or inadequate

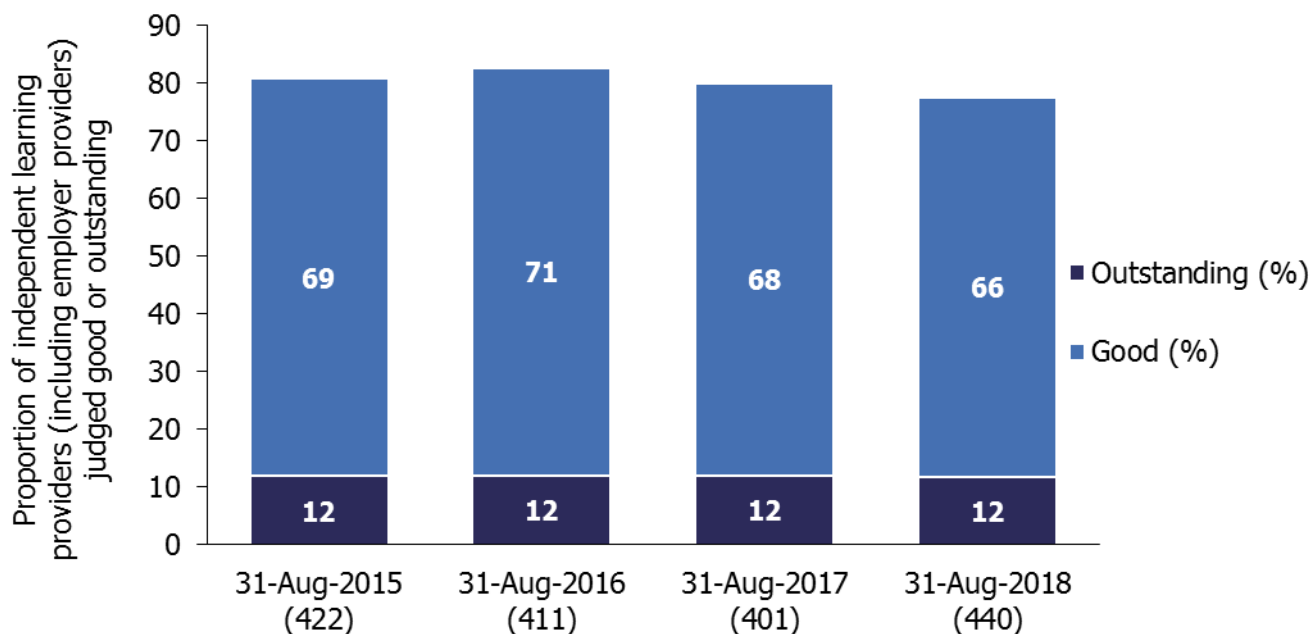
1. Includes the overall effectiveness judgement from full inspections and those that remained good after a short inspection.

The in-year outcomes had a negative effect on the proportion of providers judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection. Independent learning providers declined by three percentage points and employer providers by one percentage point. Overall, the proportion of independent learning providers (including employer providers) judged good or outstanding declined from 80% on 31 August 2017 to 78% on 31 August 2018.

This is the second year there has been a decline in the proportion of independent learning providers (including employer providers) judged good or outstanding.

Figure 6: Proportion of independent learning providers (including employer providers) judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection, over time

Number of providers in brackets





Community learning and skills providers

The number of open and funded community learning and skills providers decreased between 31 August 2017 and 31 August 2018, from 225 to 222. All but two of the providers had been inspected as at 31 August 2018, both of whom are awaiting their first full inspection.

Between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, 75 community learning and skills providers were inspected. There were 34 full inspections and 41 short inspections (including three that converted to a full inspection). This year, more than double the number of community learning and skills providers improved to good (17) than declined from good to requires improvement or inadequate (eight).

Table 4: Community learning and skills inspection outcomes between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, by previous overall effectiveness and type of inspection

Previous overall effectiveness	Type of inspection	Total number of inspections	Overall effectiveness (number)			
			Outstanding	Good ¹	Requires improvement	Inadequate
Outstanding	Full	1	1	0	0	0
Good	Full	9	0	3	4	2
Good	Short (including conversions)	41	1	38	2	0
Requires improvement	Full	22	0	16	5	1
Inadequate	Full	2	0	1	1	0
Not previously inspected	Full	0	0	0	0	0
Total		75	2	58	12	3

 Improved to good or outstanding
 Declined to requires improvement or inadequate

1. Includes the overall effectiveness judgement from full inspections and those that remained good after a short inspection.

This increased the proportion of providers judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection by five percentage points, from 83% on 31 August 2017 to 88% on 31 August 2018.

Prisons and young offender institutions

As at 31 August 2018, there were 114 prisons and young offender institutions (YOIs). All of the prisons and YOIs had been inspected.



Ofsted contributed to 41 prison and YOI inspections where the reports were published between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018. One prison and one YOI were inspected twice within the period. Overall, 16 of the prisons and YOIs were judged good for the overall effectiveness of education, skills and work (overall effectiveness)³, 20 requires improvement and five inadequate.

For seven of the 41 prisons and YOIs, this was the first time they had received an overall effectiveness judgement since it was introduced in March 2014. Six out of the seven were judged good and one was judged requires improvement.

³ Previously known as 'learning and skills and work activities'

Table 5: The overall effectiveness of education, skills and work in prisons and young offender institutions published between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, by previous overall effectiveness grade

Previous overall effectiveness	Total number of inspections	Overall effectiveness (number)			
		Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate
Outstanding	0	0	0	0	0
Good	7	0	3	3	1
Requires improvement	21	0	7	11	3
Inadequate	6	0	0	5	1
No previous overall effectiveness judgement	7	0	6	1	0
Total	41	0	16	20	5

 Improved to good or outstanding
 Declined to requires improvement or inadequate

The in-year inspection outcomes had a positive effect on the most recent inspection outcomes for all prisons and YOIs. Overall, the proportion of prisons and YOIs judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection increased by six percentage points: from 42% as at 31 August 2017 to 48% as at 31 August 2018.

Eleven prisons and YOIs inspected this year showed improvement; five improved from inadequate to requires improvement, with one YOI going on further to improve to good at their second inspection. However, 18 prisons and YOIs either remained requires improvement or inadequate this year, or declined to either grade. This includes one prison that was inspected twice this year and remained requires improvement at both inspections. This means that over half of the prisons and YOIs inspected this year did not improve.

Other further education and skills providers

Specialist further education colleges

Between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, six specialist further education colleges were inspected. There were:

- four short inspections, three resulted in the college remaining good and one converting to a full inspection, at which the provider was judged outstanding
- two full inspections, at which one provider improved from requires improvement to good and one declined from requires improvement to inadequate.

As at 31 August 2018, there were 16 open and funded specialist further education colleges, of which 14 were judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection.

Independent specialist colleges

Between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, 30 independent specialist colleges (ISCs) were inspected. There were 18 full inspections, at which half of the providers were judged good or outstanding. There were also 12 short inspections, 11 providers remained good and one inspection converted, at which the provider declined to requires improvement.

As at 31 August 2018, there were 80 open and funded ISCs, of which 68 had been inspected. Overall, 76% were judged good or outstanding. None were judged to be inadequate.

Higher education institutions

The number of higher education institutions (HEIs) included within these statistics has increased from 27 as at 31 August 2017, to 60 as at 31 August 2018. This increase has resulted from the Department for Education's apprenticeship accountability statement in April 2017, which confirmed that Ofsted would inspect the quality of apprenticeships at levels 4 and 5. This policy continues to go through implementation, with further changes to the number of HEIs that require inspection expected. The overall number has also increased as a result of HEIs becoming newly funded for apprenticeship provision.

Between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, the further education provision being delivered in 11 HEIs was inspected. There were eight short inspections, which resulted in the HEIs remaining good. There were three full inspections of providers previously judged good or outstanding, of which one remained outstanding, one declined from outstanding to good and one declined from good to requires improvement.

As at 31 August 2018 the proportion of HEI's that were judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection was 85%.

Revisions to previous release

In-year statistics

Alongside these Official Statistics a revised provider level dataset has been published, which includes inspections carried out between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 16 and inspections carried out between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017. This is due to one inspection report in each year being republished and now featuring a provision judgement for apprenticeships where these judgements were not previously included. These changes do not affect the overall messages of the main findings or tables and charts as previously reported.

Revisions to data in this publication are published in line with Ofsted's revisions policy for official statistics, which can be found here:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-standards-for-official-statistics>.

Notes

Full inspections during this reporting year

- Providers judged outstanding at their most recent inspection are not normally subject to routine inspection.⁴ However, an outstanding provider may be risk assessed to receive a full inspection where its performance declines or there is another compelling reason, such as potential safeguarding issues.
- Providers judged good for overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection will usually be inspected within the three years from September 2015. This will normally be a short inspection (see below) but may be a risk-assessed full inspection where information suggests that this is the most appropriate course of action, for example if the provider's performance has declined.
- A provider judged requires improvement at their most recent inspection will normally have a full re-inspection within 12 to 24 months of its previous inspection.
- Ofsted will monitor providers judged as inadequate and re-inspect them within 15 months of publication of their last full inspection report.⁵

Short inspections

- Providers awarded a grade of good for overall effectiveness at their previous inspection will usually receive a short inspection.
- A short inspection will determine whether the provider continues to provide a good standard of education/training for learners and whether safeguarding is effective.
- A short inspection will not make individual graded judgements and will not change the provider's overall effectiveness grade.
- The lead inspector can choose to convert the short inspection to a full inspection where: there is insufficient evidence to confirm that the provider remains good; there are concerns that there is evidence that the provider may no longer be good (which may include concerns about safeguarding); or if there is sufficient evidence of improved performance to suggest that the provider may be judged outstanding.
- If the inspection is converted to a full inspection, inspectors will make the full set of graded judgements. As a result of the converted inspection the provider could improve, decline or remain the same.

The quality report for these official statistics contains an explanation of the methodology used and the relevant inspection frameworks, along with other useful information. It is available from:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-inspections-and-outcomes-as-at-31-August-2018

Findings from our forthcoming Annual Report will be published on 4 December 2018.

⁴ The following types of provision are still subject to routine inspection when they have been judged outstanding: higher education institutions offering further education; local authority providers; independent specialist colleges; dance and drama colleges; and learning and skills provision in prisons.

⁵ Full re-inspections or re-inspection monitoring visits may not happen in certain circumstances, for example where a provider's funding contract has been terminated.

Glossary

General further education colleges

General further education colleges offer a range of education and training opportunities for learners aged from 14 years upwards, including adults. They include tertiary colleges, which specialise in land based education and training.

Sixth form colleges

A sixth form college is an educational institution where students aged 16 to 18 typically study for advanced school-level qualifications, such as A levels, or school-level qualifications such as GCSEs.

Specialist further education colleges

Specialist further education colleges are colleges who specialise in the provision of agricultural, horticultural or art, design and technology courses.

Independent specialist colleges

Independent specialist colleges provide education and training for students with complex learning difficulties and/or disabilities, whose learning needs cannot be met by their local college or provider.

Independent learning providers (including employer providers)

Independent learning providers are companies which provide government funded education. The category includes employer providers who only offer government funded training to their own employees.

Community learning and skills providers

Community learning and skills providers include local authorities, charities, voluntary, not for profit companies and community organisations, specialist designated institutions and community interest companies. Their provision is diverse in character and aims to meet the needs and interests of a wide range of communities. Courses include: those that lead to a qualification; programmes leading to qualifications whilst in employment (such as apprenticeships); provision for informal adult learning; and provision for social and personal development. Community learning and skills providers were previously categorised as adult and community learning providers.

16 to 19 academies

These are state-funded, non-fee-paying schools independent of local authorities which cater for pupils aged 16 to 19.

Dance and drama colleges

Colleges that specialises in delivering dance and drama courses.

Higher education institution

Where higher education institutions (such as universities) offer further education courses and/or level 4 or 5 apprenticeships, these are subject to inspection by Ofsted.

National Careers Service contractors

The National Careers Service provides information, advice and guidance for those aged 13 and over across England. The service is delivered in 12 geographical regions by area based prime contractors and a national contact centre by one national contractor.

Prisons and young offender institutions

Ofsted undertakes inspections in prisons and young offender institutions in partnership with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP). Ofsted inspectors evaluate the quality of education, skills and work in prisons and young offender institutions. Inspection reports are published by HMIP and can be found at: www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons.

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