



Department
for Education

Fees and frequency of inspections regulations 2020-2021

Government consultation

Launch date 14 January 2020

Respond by 11 February 2020

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Introduction

The aim of this consultation is to seek views of key stakeholders on proposed changes to the Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) (Children's Homes etc) Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations"), with a view to the changes coming into force in 2020-21.

The consultation will run for four weeks.

Who this is for

- Adoption support agencies
- Boarding schools and residential further educational colleges
- Children's homes
- Holiday schemes for disabled children
- Independent fostering agencies
- Local authorities
- Ofsted
- Organisations providing support and services for children and young people
- Parents and carers
- Residential family centres
- Residential special schools
- Voluntary adoption agencies

Issue date

The consultation was issued on 14 January 2020.

Enquiries

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the team by email at: FeesandFrequency.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk.

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the DfE Ministerial and Public Communications Division by email (Consultations.Coordinator@education.gov.uk), by telephone (0370 000 2288) or via the [DfE Contact us page](#).

Additional copies

Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from [GOV.UK DfE consultations](#).

The response

The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be [published on GOV.UK](#) in Spring 2020.

About this consultation

The aim of this consultation is to seek the views of interested parties on proposed changes to [Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills \(Fees and Frequency of Inspections\) \(Children's Homes etc.\) Regulations 2015](#).

These Regulations relate to the role and responsibilities of Ofsted under the Care Standards Act 2000. Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. Its role is to inspect and regulate services that care for children and young people, and services providing education and skills for learners of all ages.

This consultation seeks views on a proposed 10% increase on current fees payable by children's social care providers, for those providers which are not already at full cost recovery. Annexes A and B (annual fee and registration/variation fee respectively) set out the proposed 2020-21 fees.

Respond online

To help us analyse the responses please use the online system wherever possible. You can reply to this consultation online at: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/children-in-care-and-permanence/fees-and-frequency-of-inspection-regulations-2020>

Other ways to respond

If for exceptional reasons, you are unable to use the online system, for example because you use specialist accessibility software that is not compatible with the system, you may download a word document version of the form and email it or post it.

By email

FeesandFrequency.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk

By post

Fees and Frequency Consultation
Children in Care and Permanence
Department for Education, 8th Floor
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Deadline

The consultation closes on 11 February 2020.

1. Annual, registration and variation fees

- 1.1 Since 2010-11, the fees payable to Ofsted by children's social care providers, in accordance with the Regulations, have been set using a model for calculation developed by Ofsted in 2008-09 and updated on an annual basis. The cost of each inspection and regulatory activity is calculated based on a mix of direct and indirect costs, including the tariff for each inspection and/or visit and the wider costs of regulating the sector. Ofsted developed this model to give greater transparency to providers on how fees were set, providing a more accurate and readily understandable indication of the time and resource involved on inspection and regulatory activity.
- 1.2 The majority of providers are a long way from paying the full cost of the inspection and regulatory activity undertaken by Ofsted. Although previous fee increases have closed the gap, there is still further to go. The majority of providers - around 70% - are still paying less than 50% of the full cost. This means that the taxpayer continues to subsidise the regulation of the majority of children's social care providers.
- 1.3 We, therefore, propose to continue with a 10% increase of fees for 2020-21, for those providers not yet at full cost recovery. The level of proposed increase is designed to maintain stability in the market and avoid imposing unsustainable pressure on individual providers, while moving towards full cost recovery.
- 1.4 **Annexes A and B** set out proposed fees for different types and sizes of provider that take account of the proposed 10% increase.
- 1.5 As in previous years, the fees for providers already at full-cost recovery level will be capped at the full-cost rate.

Questions on fees:

1. Do you agree with the proposed 10% increases for 2020/21 (as at Annexes A and B)?
2. How would the proposed increases affect you as a provider?

2. Fee structure review

2.1 In the Government response to the consultation on the fees and frequency of inspection regulations 2019/20, we set out that a review of the basis on which fees are set at all levels (annual, registration and variation to conditions of registration) will be undertaken.

2.2 It is still the intention to undertake this review but any resulting revisions to the fee structure will not be implemented until April 2021 at the earliest. Any proposed changes to the fee structure will be fully consulted upon before implementation.

3. Equalities Assessment

This section asks for your help in identifying any impacts of our proposals on people with protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race (including ethnicity), religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Please provide any representations / evidence on the impact of our proposals on people with protected characteristics for the purposes of the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010).

Annex A: Proposed social care fees for 2020/21

| Proposed annual inspection fees for 2020/21 | 2019/20 annual fee | 2020/21 annual fee | Increase |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Voluntary Adoption Agency (Small) | 895 | 985 | 90 |
| Voluntary Adoption Agency (Large) | 1,689 | 1,858 | 169 |
| Independent Fostering Agency | 2,830 | 3,113 | 283 |
| Adoption Support Agency (Small) | 895 | 985 | 90 |
| Adoption Support Agency (Large)** | 1,694 | 1,750 | 56 |
| Residential Family Centre (0-3) | 1,717 | 1,889 | 172 |
| Residential Family Centre (4) * | 1,913 | 1,913 | 0 |
| Residential Family Centre (5+) * | 1,913 | 1,913 | 0 |
| Children's homes (0-3) | 2,578 | 2,836 | 258 |
| Children's homes (4-25) | 2,578 | 2,836 | 258 |
| Children's homes (4-25) per place fee | 257 | 283 | 26 |
| Children's homes (26) ** | 8,489 | 9,285 | 796 |
| Children's homes (27) ** | 8,746 | 9,285 | 539 |
| Children's homes (28) ** | 9,003 | 9,285 | 282 |
| Children's homes (29) ** | 9,260 | 9,285 | 25 |
| Children's homes (30) * | 9,285 | 9,285 | 0 |
| Children's homes (31) * | 9,285 | 9,285 | 0 |
| Children's homes (32+) * | 9,285 | 9,285 | 0 |
| Boarding School (0-3) * | 842 | 842 | 0 |
| Boarding School (4-12) * | 842 | 842 | 0 |
| Boarding School (4-12) per place fee * | 51 | 51 | 0 |
| Boarding School (13-50) * | 1,323 | 1,323 | 0 |
| Boarding School (51-500) * | 1,851 | 1,851 | 0 |
| Boarding School (500+) * | 2,223 | 2,223 | 0 |
| Residential FE College (0-3) | 1,121 | 1,233 | 112 |
| Residential FE College (4-10) | 1,121 | 1,233 | 112 |
| Residential FE College (4-10) per place fee | 68 | 75 | 7 |
| Residential FE College (11) ** | 1,665 | 1,821 | 156 |
| Residential FE College (12+) ** | 1,717 | 1,821 | 104 |
| Residential Special School (0-3) | 2,061 | 2,267 | 206 |
| Residential Special School (4-15) | 2,061 | 2,267 | 206 |
| Residential Special School (4-15) per place fee | 205 | 226 | 21 |
| Residential Special School (16) ** | 4,726 | 5,007 | 281 |
| Residential Special School (17) ** | 4,931 | 5,007 | 76 |
| Residential Special School (18) * | 5,007 | 5,007 | 0 |
| Residential Special School (19+) * | 5,007 | 5,007 | 0 |
| LA Adoption functions ** | 2,059 | 2,059 | 0 |
| LA Fostering functions ** | 3,216 | 3,216 | 0 |
| Holiday Schemes for Disabled Children * | 500 | 500 | 0 |

* Full cost recovery achieved in 2019/20 or earlier.

** Proposed 2020/21 fees capped at full cost.

Annex B: Proposed registration/variation fees for 2020/21

Proposed registration/variation fees for 2020/21

Children's Home (small)

| Type | 2019/20 fees | 2020/21 fees | Increase |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Provider registration | 960 | 1,056 | 96 |
| Manager registration | No fee | No fee | No fee |
| Minor variation | 160 | 176 | 16 |
| Variation requiring visit* | 910 | 910 | 0 |

Children's Home (large)

| Type | 2019/20 fees | 2020/21 fees | Increase |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Provider registration* | 2,646 | 2,646 | 0 |
| Manager registration* | 910 | 910 | 0 |
| Minor variation | 160 | 176 | 16 |
| Variation requiring visit* | 1,322 | 1,322 | 0 |

Voluntary Adoption Agency (small)

| Type | 2019/20 fees | 2020/21 fees | Increase |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Provider registration | 667 | 734 | 67 |
| Manager registration | No fee | No fee | No fee |
| Minor variation | 111 | 122 | 11 |
| Variation requiring visit | 667 | 734 | 67 |

Voluntary Adoption Agency (large)

| Type | 2019/20 fees | 2020/21 fees | Increase |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Provider registration** | 2,445 | 2,646 | 201 |
| Manager registration | No fee | No fee | No fee |
| Minor variation | 111 | 122 | 11 |
| Variation requiring visit* | 919 | 919 | 0 |

Independent Fostering Agency

| Type | 2019/20 fees | 2020/21 fees | Increase |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Provider registration* | 2,646 | 2,646 | 0 |
| Manager registration* | 910 | 910 | 0 |
| Minor variation | 160 | 176 | 16 |
| Variation requiring visit* | 1,322 | 1,322 | 0 |

Adoption Support Agency (small)

| Type | 2019/20 fees | 2020/21 fees | Increase |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Provider registration | 667 | 734 | 67 |
| Manager registration | No fee | No fee | No fee |
| Minor variation | 111 | 122 | 11 |
| Variation requiring visit | 667 | 734 | 67 |

Adoption Support Agency (large)

| Type | 2019/20 fees | 2020/21 fees | Increase |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Provider registration** | 2,445 | 2,646 | 201 |
| Manager registration | 667 | 734 | 67 |
| Minor variation | 111 | 122 | 11 |
| Variation requiring visit* | 919 | 919 | 0 |

Residential Family Centre (small)

| Type | 2019/20 fees | 2020/21 fees | Increase |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Provider registration | 801 | 881 | 80 |
| Manager registration | No fee | No fee | No fee |
| Minor variation | 133 | 146 | 13 |
| Variation requiring visit | 801 | 881 | 80 |

Residential Family Centre (large)

| Type | 2019/20 fees | 2020/21 fees | Increase |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Provider registration* | 2,646 | 2,646 | 0 |
| Manager registration | 801 | 881 | 80 |
| Minor variation | 133 | 146 | 13 |
| Variation requiring visit* | 1,102 | 1,102 | 0 |

Holiday Schemes for Disabled Children

| Type | 2019/20 fees | 2020/21 fees | Increase |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Provider registration * | 596 | 596 | 0 |
| Manager registration * | 596 | 596 | 0 |
| Minor variation | No fee | No fee | No fee |
| Variation requiring visit | No fee | No fee | No fee |

* Full cost recovery achieved in 2019/20 or earlier.

** Proposed 2020/21 fees capped at full cost.



Department
for Education

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