**Further education and skills inspections and outcomes**

Official statistics consultation

30 June 2016

Contents

[1. Introduction 2](#_Toc454910555)

[1.1 Consultation timeline 2](#_Toc454910556)

[1.2 Consultation response 2](#_Toc454910557)

[1.3 Common terms of reference 3](#_Toc454910558)

[2. Changes for information 3](#_Toc454910559)

[2.1 The new common inspection framework 3](#_Toc454910560)

[2.2 Dance and drama colleges 5](#_Toc454910561)

[2.3 Independent specialist colleges 5](#_Toc454910562)

[2.4 Provider types and groups 6](#_Toc454910563)

[2.5 Database migration 7](#_Toc454910564)

[2.6 Aggregation of in-year statistics 8](#_Toc454910565)

[2.7 Published underlying data 8](#_Toc454910566)

[3. Changes open for consultation 8](#_Toc454910567)

[3.1 ‘All further education and skills providers’ aggregation 8](#_Toc454910568)

[3.2 Methodology change for the most recent outcomes 9](#_Toc454910569)

[Annex A: questionnaire for the further education and skills inspections and outcomes Official Statistics consultation 11](#_Toc454910570)

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# Introduction

There have been several changes to the ‘further education and skills inspections and outcomes’ Official Statistics since they were last published in December 2015.

There are two types of changes described in this document, those that are for information and those that are open for consultation.

The ‘changes for information’ section describes essential changes that have happened to accommodate the new common inspection framework, implemented by Ofsted on 1 September 2015, and changes resulting from a database migration.

The ‘changes open for consultation’ section describes a possible change in the methodology for aggregating the ‘all further education and skills providers’ figure, along with excluding providers that have ceased to be funded or closed from the statistics as at 31 August.

All of the above changes have been applied to the key findings and ‘data, tables and charts’ file for the Official Statistics published on 30 June 2016. Data within these statistics have been labelled as ‘final’, as the outcomes from all inspections conducted between 1 September 2015 and 29 February 2016 have been included. The way that the data has been aggregated is provisional and open for consultation.

We are inviting users to explore the changes that have been made and to feedback on the changes that are open for consultation. Depending on the results of this consultation, the aggregations could be revised and the statistics republished.

### 1.1 Consultation timeline

The consultation will remain open for a period of four weeks, closing at 17:00 on Friday 29 July 2016.

### 1.2 Consultation response

We welcome your responses to this consultation and the information you provide us with will inform our future releases.

If you would like to respond please complete and send back the questionnaire in Annex A of this document.

A response to the consultation will be published in August 2016.

### 1.3 Common terms of reference

Throughout this document there are two key terms used to describe the different periods or points in time that the data refers to:

In-year reporting

This refers to inspections that have been conducted within a reporting year, between 1 September and 31 August. The tables and charts count the number of inspections that have been conducted during the reporting year. If a provider has been inspected twice, they will appear twice in the underlying data.

Most recent inspection outcomes

This refers to the most recent (or latest) full inspection outcomes for all open and funded providers at one point in time, regardless of when the inspection took place. The tables and charts count the number of providers that have been inspected. Each provider can only appear once in the underlying data. If a provider is open and funded but has not yet been inspected then they do not appear in this measure, but are included within the underlying data. Statistics about the most recent inspection outcomes for all providers open and funded on 31 August are published each year, with a mid-year picture also published part way through the year.

# Changes for information

The introduction of the new common inspection framework and the migration to a new database has led to some essential changes to the Official Statistics. These changes are described within this section of the document. As well as helping users understand the reasons and impact of changes made, they will also help users understand the context behind the changes open for consultation.

### 2.1 The new common inspection framework

The new common inspection framework was introduced on 1 September 2015 and was designed to provide greater coherence across different providers that cater for similar age ranges. It sets out the principles that apply to inspection and the main judgements that inspectors make when conducting inspections of maintained schools, academies, non-association independent schools, further education and skills providers and registered early years settings. The framework can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-inspection-framework-education-skills-and-early-years-from-september-2015>

The framework is accompanied by an inspection handbook for each of the four remits. The handbooks set out how each of the inspection judgements will be made and reflects the needs and expectations of different phases and the differences between various age groups. The further education and skills inspection handbook can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-education-and-skills-inspection-handbook-from-september-2015>

The framework includes a new key judgment on ‘personal development, behaviour and welfare’. As such, analysis of this judgement will only represent inspections since 1 September 2015 and will not provide a comprehensive view of the quality of provision nationally.

Under the new framework previously good providers can receive a short inspection, rather than a full inspection. Short inspections can either confirm that the provider is still good overall or the lead inspector can choose to convert the 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.

A decision to convert the short inspection does not predetermine the outcome of the full inspection. At the end of the full inspection a provider could remain good, improve to outstanding or decline to requires improvement or inadequate.

In-year reporting

To help users identify short inspections within the ‘data, tables and charts’ file, the following fields and labels have been added:

* An ‘inspection type group’ has been added to the in-year data tabs to allow users to identify whether a provider received a full or short inspection;
* Where a short inspection did not covert and the provider remained good, this will be recorded in the inspection type group as ‘FES - Short inspection’ and the overall effectiveness column will be populated with grade 2. No other key judgements can result from a short inspection;
* Where a short inspection did convert to a full inspection, this will be recorded in the inspection type group as ‘FES - Full Inspection (short converted)’ and the remaining columns will be completed as they would for a full inspection;
* The titles on each tab have been edited to clearly identify whether the data shown includes the outcomes from full inspections only or full and short inspections combined.

For example in ‘Chart 2: Further education and skills full and short inspection outcomes this reporting year, by overall effectiveness and provider group’:

* The title indicates the chart contains the overall effectiveness outcomes from both full and short inspections;
* The 199 inspections are a combination of the overall effectiveness from 152 full inspections (including short inspections that converted) and 47 short inspections that did not convert.

Most recent inspection outcomes

Within the ‘Most recent inspection data’ tab, the most recent (latest) full inspection outcomes are shown for each provider. This includes short inspections that converted to full inspections. Short inspections which did not convert to full inspections do not affect this tab because the provider’s original overall effectiveness judgement remains good.

### 2.2 Dance and drama colleges

Before 1 September 2015 Ofsted inspected dance and drama colleges at course level, with one dance and drama college potentially receiving multiple judgements for the different courses they delivered. One of these judgements would have been published as a proxy for overall effectiveness in the underlying data and tables. The proxy for overall effectiveness was never included in the aggregation for ‘all further education and skills providers’.

From 1 September 2015 under the new common inspection framework, Ofsted makes a judgement on the overall effectiveness for dance and drama colleges. This change makes the judgement comparable to other providers and therefore dance and drama colleges will now be included in the aggregation for ‘all further education and skills providers’.

The previously published proxy for overall effectiveness is not comparable to the new judgement and has been removed from the underlying data so that inappropriate comparisons cannot be made. This means that for the 29 February statistics, there are no previous inspection outcomes and three dance and drama colleges have no recent key judgements recorded on the ‘Most recent inspection data’ tab. All currently open and funded dance and drama colleges have now been inspected and will be included in 31 August 2016 statistics.

### 2.3 Independent specialist colleges

Prior to 1 September 2015, independent specialist colleges (ISCs) were included within the ‘colleges’ group, along with general further education colleges, sixth form colleges and specialist further education colleges (which specialise in agriculture and horticulture or performing arts). Ofsted has taken the decision to no longer include ISCs within the ‘colleges’ group and to report on them separately from 1 September 2015 because:

* They exclusively offer programmes for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and in particular for those in receipt of high needs funding;
* The range of qualification aims and the positive outcomes ISCs are trying to help their learners achieve are different compared with other colleges. Whilst the achievement of relevant qualifications is important, the main focus of ISCs is to prepare young people for adult life. This will include supported, voluntary or paid employment, supported or independent living, and further training or qualifications;
* ISCs are not ‘institutions within the further education sector’ by definition of s.91(3) of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992, unlike the other types of colleges.

### 2.4 Provider types and groups

To make the underlying data easier for users to aggregate, we have separated out the provider types and groups and included them within the underlying data, tables and charts:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Provider type | Provider group | |
| General further education college | Colleges | All further education and skills providers |
| Sixth form college |
| Specialist further education college |
| Independent specialist college | Independent specialist colleges |
| Independent learning provider | Independent learning providers  (including employer providers) |
| Employer provider |
| Local authority provider | Community learning and skills providers |
| Not for profit organisation |
| Specialist designated institution |
| 16-19 academy converter | 16-19 academies |
| 16-19 academy sponsor led |
| 16-19 free school |
| Dance and drama college | Dance and drama colleges |
| Higher education institution\* | Higher education institutions |
| National Careers Service contractor | National Careers Service contractors |
| Prison and young offender institution | Prison and young offender institutions | Prison and young offender institutions |

\*Further education being delivered in higher education institutions

### 2.5 Database migration

In September 2015 Ofsted changed how it records and stores all of its inspection information, with the introduction of a new database. As part of the data migration, one missing inspection and a small number of missing judgements were identified and have been corrected. Details are below:

Revision 1

There has been one addition to the in-year historical inspection outcomes for 2013/14. This inspection was for an independent learning provider that was judged to be inadequate for overall effectiveness.

The impact of this revision is that the proportion of independent learning providers (including employer providers) judged to be inadequate between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014 rose by one percentage point, to 9%. This did not affect the proportions judged to be outstanding, good or requiring improvement.

The revision also changed the number of previously grade 3 providers that improved, stayed the same or declined during 2013/14, but did not affect the percentages reported.

Revision 2

As at 31 August 2015, 47 providers that were last inspected between 2006 and 2009 did not have an ‘outcomes for learners’ judgement recorded (these judgements were made at the time of inspection, under the old judgement ‘achievement and standards’). Out of the 47 providers, 40 were found to be outstanding and seven good. This revision has no impact on the previously published key findings or ‘tables and charts’ files.

These outcomes have now been added to the underlying data supporting this Official Statistics release and a separate data set will be published amending the underlying data for the 31 August 2015.

Revision 3

As at 31 August 2015, 58 providers that were last inspected between 2006 and 2009 did not have a ‘teaching, learning and assessment’ judgement recorded (comparable judgements were made at the time of inspection, recorded in the text under the old judgement ‘quality of provision’). Out of the 58 providers, 40 were found to be outstanding, 17 good and one satisfactory. This revision has no impact on the previously published key findings or ‘tables and charts’ files.

These outcomes have now been added to the underlying data supporting this Official Statistics release and a separate data set will be published amending the underlying data for the 31 August 2015.

### 2.6 Aggregation of in-year statistics

The in-year statistics over time have been recalculated to account for the changes listed above and to make the data over time comparable. We hope users will find this helpful.

### 2.7 Published underlying data

Previously, the underlying data for the Official Statistics were published as separate files, available from the same landing page as the key findings.

To be more consistent across the Official Statistics published by Ofsted, we are now including our underlying data within the ‘data, tables and charts’ file. We have also included additional columns of data to make the statistics more useful.

# Changes open for consultation

Listed below are the changes open for consultation.

### 3.1 ‘All further education and skills providers’ aggregation

We are seeking users’ views as to whether National Careers Service contractors and higher education institutions should be included within the ‘all further education and skills providers’ aggregation.

Prior to 1 September 2015 National Careers Service contractors and higher education institutions (delivering further education) were excluded from the aggregation of ‘all further education and skills providers’, which appeared on both the in-year and most recent inspection outcome tables and charts.

These providers were included in the underlying data, tables and charts for the in-year reporting, but were not included as part of the aggregated figure for ‘all further education and skills providers’, which appeared in the same tables and charts. They were completely excluded from the most recent inspection outcome statistics.

From 1 September 2015 we are proposing to include both of these provider types within the ‘all further education and skills providers’ aggregation, so that it becomes a true representation of all further education and skills providers. (Prison and young offender institutions will continue to be excluded, as the inspection is led by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons.)

This will affect both the in-year reporting and the most recent inspection outcomes:

In-year reporting

National Careers Service contractors and higher education institutions have been included within the ‘all further education and skills providers’ aggregation.

The in-year statistics over time have been recalculated to include the two provider types and make the data comparable for users.

Most recent inspection outcomes

For the statistics as at 29 February 2016, National Careers Service contractors and higher education institutions have been included within the ‘all further education and skills providers’ aggregation.

Unfortunately, the most recent inspection outcomes for ‘all further education and skills providers’ cannot be recalculated for previous years, as we do not hold a record of the National Careers Service contractors and higher education institutions that were open and funded as at 31 August each year.

By making this change the most recent inspection outcomes for National Careers Service contractors and higher education institutions would be made available in the underlying data, tables and charts. This would create a comprehensive view of the inspection outcomes for all National Careers Service contractors and higher education institutions, rather than only being able to see the providers that had been inspected within one reporting year.

### 3.2 Methodology change for the most recent outcomes

We are seeking users’ views as to whether providers that ceased to be funded or closed during the year should no longer be included in the most recent inspection outcome statistics as at 31 August each year.

Prior to 1 September 2015 the most recent inspection outcome statistics as at 31 August each year included: 1) open providers that were either wholly or partly funded by the Skills Funding Agency or the Education Funding Agency at that point in time, and 2) providers that had lost funding or closed between 1 September and 31 August for the stated reporting year. The statistics as at February each year only included open and funded providers at that point in time.

From the 1 September 2015 we are proposing that the 31 August statistics will only include providers that were open and funded on 31 August. Providers which ceased to be funded or closed during the year will no longer be included. This is to bring the most recent inspection outcomes methodology in-line with the Official Statistics for maintained schools and academies, and early years and childcare.

This change would mean the most recent inspection outcome statistics as at 31 August 2016, due to be published in November 2016, would not be comparable to previous years. This primarily affects Chart 6 within the ‘data, tables and charts’ file.

The underlying data for the most recent inspection outcomes as at 31 August 2015 will be published alongside the Official Statistics on 30 June 2016, with providers that ceased to be funded or closed during 2014/15 excluded from the data. This data was used to aggregate the 31 August 2015 statistics in ‘Figure 5’ of the key findings document and allows valid comparisons to be made for different provider groups between 31 August 2015 and 29 February 2016.

For those providers that may not appear in the Official Statistics the most recent inspection outcomes have now been included in the published monthly management information. This ensures users have a regular updated picture of the sector, with every provider that has been funded at any point during the year appearing in at least one set of management information.

This change does not affect the in-year reporting statistics.

# Annex A: questionnaire for the further education and skills inspections and outcomes Official Statistics consultation

**Confidentiality**

The information you provide will be held by Ofsted. It will only be used for the purposes of consultation and to help us plan and develop our statistical outputs.

We will treat your identity in confidence, if you disclose it to us.

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

Yes  please complete Section 1 and the following questions

No  please complete Section 2 and the following questions

**Section 1**

Which organisation are you responding on behalf of?

Click here to enter text.

Are you happy for us to consider publishing the views of your organisation?

Yes

No

**Section 2**

Which sector do you work in?

Click here to enter text.

What is your profession?

Click here to enter text.

**The questionnaire**

**Question 1**

Should National Careers Service contractors and higher education institutions be included within the ‘all further education and skills providers’ aggregation?

Yes

No

Comments:

Click here to enter text.

**Question 2**

Should providers that ceased to be funded or closed during the year no longer be included in the most recent inspection outcome statistics as at 31 August each year?

Yes

No

Comments:

Click here to enter text.

**Additional comments**

Any there any other additional comments you would like to make?

Click here to enter text.

**Thank you**

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete the questionnaire and contribute to the consultation. We will collate the responses we receive and these will influence the decisions we make for our Official Statistics.

**Please return:**

Either by email to: [FEandSkillsData@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:FEandSkillsData@ofsted.gov.uk)

Or by post to: Ofsted, C/O Marc McGreavy, Data and Insight, 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EH

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