

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

Consultation document

Ofsted is proposing 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.

Through this consultation, we are seeking the widest possible range of views to make sure that any revision we make takes into account the needs and circumstances of all those who have an interest or expertise in non-association schools. We are particularly keen to hear from people who have been directly involved with schools – including children, parents and carers and those who run and commission services.

The closing date for this consultation is 14 September 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.

Age group: 4–16

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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. We are asking for your views on our proposed changes to the publication frequency of 'Non-association independent schools: inspections and outcomes' official statistics' and also providing additional management information on a regular basis. Your contribution will help us refine the frequency of our statistics to better meet users' needs.
3. The official statistics is currently published twice a year on the gov.uk website: www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-schools-inspections-and-outcomes and reports on the most recent inspection outcomes of all schools open and the outcomes of inspections in the academic year to date.
4. Ofsted does not currently publish management information for non-association independent schools. These proposals set out our intentions to publish these on a regular basis.
5. Data produced as a result of these proposals may also be quoted in various Ofsted communications, such as speeches, blogs, conferences, surveys, letters, and HMCI's Annual Report.
6. These proposals only affect the reporting of inspection outcomes. They do not affect the timing of a school's inspection, or the data that is used in the inspection.

The aim of the consultation

7. The aim of this consultation is to find out how Ofsted can make the release of statistics for non-association schools more timely and user-friendly.
8. Responses will inform the review of the frequency of publication. The consultation closes on **14 September 2017** and results will be published in October 2017.

Proposals

9. We are proposing the following change to the non-association independent schools releases, namely:
 - reducing the number of releases of official statistics from twice to once per year

- publishing additional management information on non-association independent schools three times each year.
10. Our official statistics are currently published twice a year, in July (which covers the period from September to March) and November (which covers the full academic year from September to August). The official statistics report on the most recent inspection outcomes of all schools open and the outcomes of inspections in the academic year to date.
 11. We are proposing to remove the release of official statistics in July. Instead, we will replace this with regular releases of management information throughout the year.
 12. This change would result in the following release schedule each year:
 - 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).
 13. Publishing data in this way will make the release of data more timely, and therefore more readily accessible.

The consultation process

14. We welcome your responses to this consultation paper. The consultation opens on 20 July 2017 and closes on 14 September 2017.
15. The information you give us will inform our consideration of the frequency of publication of official statistics and management information for non-association independent schools.
16. We will publish a report on the response to this consultation in October 2017.

Sending back your response

17. There are three ways of completing and submitting your response:

■ **Online electronic questionnaire**

Visit www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/freqpubsstats to complete and submit an electronic version of the response form.

■ **Download and email**

Visit our website to download a Word version of the response form that you can complete on your computer:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/non-association-independent-schools-inspections-and-outcomes-frequency-of-publication-of-statistics>

When you have completed the form, please email it to inspectioninsight@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 the response form that you can fill in by hand:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/non-association-independent-schools-inspections-and-outcomes-frequency-of-publication-of-statistics>. When you have completed it, please post it to:

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Data and Insight
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Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
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Questionnaire for changes to the frequency of publication of statistics on non-association independent schools: inspections and outcomes

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 and inform inspection and regulatory practices.

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 2 with the following questions
 No please complete Section 2 with the following questions

Section 1

If you would like us to consider publishing the views of your organisation, please indicate this below.

Organisation: _____

Section 2

Which of the below best describes you? Please tick one option.

Employed in a school (e.g. teacher, headteacher, governor, proprietor etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Person with an interest in our data	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government department	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leader/Manager in a multi academy trust	<input type="checkbox"/>
Press	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leader/Manager in a local authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
Professional organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of Parliament	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)			

Reducing the number of releases of official statistics from twice to once per year and publishing additional management information on non-association independent schools three times each year.

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 <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 support your response

What did you think of this consultation?

As part of our strategic plan, we are committed to monitor whether or not our consultations are accessible to those wishing to take part.

How did you hear about this consultation?

- Ofsted website
- Ofsted News, our 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 Ofsted 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 completion of 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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