
Introduction of the common inspection framework and revised handbooks in September 2015 for early years inspections

Introduction of the common inspection framework and revised handbooks in September 2015 for non-association independent schools inspections

Simplification of early years compliance handbook in April 2016

Office for Standards in Education, Children's Service and Skills (Ofsted)

RPC rating: **validated**

This Opinion covers three small measures. For each, a brief description of the change, its impacts (as set out in the BIT assessments) and the quality of the submission is given in the table below.

Measure	Description	Impact	Quality of submission
Introduction of the common inspection framework and revised handbooks in September 2015 for early years inspections	The measure introduced the Common Inspection Framework (CIF) that applies to inspections of Early years providers. Early years providers consist of childminders and childcare providers such as nurseries.	The cost to business of the measure relates to familiarisation with the new and revised guidance. The assessment states that the measure impacted all privately	The assessment is clear and concise, and provides appropriate evidence for the RPC to verify the EANDCB of £1.4 million. Ofsted has collected a good

Measure	Description	Impact	Quality of submission
(implemented September 2015)	<p>The introduction of the CIF requires revisions to the previous early years framework. The assessment states that the revisions were limited, consisting of realignment between the different <i>'judgements'</i> of the two frameworks, for consistency purposes. For example, the judgement <i>'the overall quality and standards of the provision'</i> set out in the early years framework has been revised to <i>'overall effectiveness'</i> in the Common Inspection Framework.</p> <p>Due to the changes in these judgements, Ofsted updated its guidance on early years inspections. The guidance changes included the new common inspection framework, updates to the early years inspection handbook and revised website guidance that gives examples of early years provision and how these will be inspected under the new framework.</p>	<p>funded childcare providers and childminders. It states that there are 47,668 childminders and 16,307 childcare providers.</p> <p>Ofsted states that the length of the new common inspection framework is 13 pages, and the length of the revised early years inspections handbook is 44 pages.</p> <p>To estimate the cost to childminders and childcare providers of familiarisation, Ofsted gathered evidence from both groups.</p> <p>As of September 2015, there were 47,558 childminders. Childminders indicated that familiarisation with the revised guidance would take one day per person. The cost per childminder is estimated to be</p>	level of consultation evidence from both childminders and childcare providers to underpin its analysis.

Opinion: EANDCB validation

Origin: Domestic

RPC reference number: RPC17-3870(1)-DfE-OFSTED, RPC17-3871(1)-DfE-OFSTED, RPC17-3872(1)-DfE-OFSTED

Date of implementation: see table

Measure	Description	Impact	Quality of submission
	Ofsted highlights that the content of the new framework was covered in the existing early years inspection handbook.	<p>£59, based on evidence from childminders.</p> <p>As of September 2015, there were 16,307 childcare providers. The average cost per provider is estimated to be £577, based on evidence from childcare providers.</p> <p>The total one-off cost to business, of familiarisation, is estimated to be £12 million.</p>	
Introduction of the common inspection framework and revised handbooks in September 2015 for	The measure introduced the Common Inspection Framework (CIF) for inspections of non-association independent schools. The CIF aims to improve transparency and consistency	The cost to business of the measure, relates to familiarisation with the CIF and the revised handbook.	The assessment is concise, clear and proportionate. It provides sufficient evidence for the RPC to verify the EANDCB of £0.1 million.

Measure	Description	Impact	Quality of submission
<p>non-association independent schools inspections</p> <p>(implemented September 2016)</p>	<p>in inspections of maintained schools and academies.</p> <p>As with the previous measure, the assessment states that the revisions were limited, consisting of realignment between the different <i>'judgements'</i> of the two frameworks, for consistency purposes.</p> <p>There was a new CIF for schools to read, although this was shorter than the previous framework. The amount of material to read reduced from 31 to 16 pages. Ofsted expected that the CIF would be read by the headteacher and proprietor of schools. Other key staff were expected to read the inspection handbook, and disseminate information to the relevant staff. The inspection handbook was reduced in length from 108 to 84 pages.</p> <p>There were a number of additional, minor changes such as the updating</p>	<p>The assessment states that the number of non-association independent schools is 1051.</p> <p>The estimated average cost of familiarisation per independent school is £580, based on consultation evidence.</p> <p>Applying this cost to all schools, the total one-off cost to business is estimated to be £609,580.</p>	<p>Ofsted could have included further detail on how many schools responded at consultation, to give context to the averages estimated.</p>

Opinion: EANDCB validation

Origin: Domestic

RPC reference number: RPC17-3870(1)-DfE-OFSTED, RPC17-3871(1)-DfE-OFSTED, RPC17-3872(1)-DfE-OFSTED

Date of implementation: see table

Measure	Description	Impact	Quality of submission
	of references in part 1 of the handbook.		
Simplification of early years compliance handbook in April 2016 (implemented April 2016)	<p>The measure simplified existing guidance on compliance with regulations for early years providers.</p> <p>The guidance is relevant for non-compliant actors – those who have been identified by Ofsted as being in breach of statutory requirements. The assessment states that the guidance <i>'is intended as a point of reference and information'</i> for such providers.</p>	<p>Ofsted estimates that 1,732 non-compliant providers were impacted.</p> <p>The benefit to business of the measure consisted of time savings from the simplification of the guidance. The length of the guidance has been reduced by 62 pages. Based on an average reading speed of 200 words per minute, and an hourly wage rate of £10.95, the assessment calculates an estimated total benefit of £34,300 across industry.</p>	<p>The assessment is clear and concise.</p> <p>As this measure only applies to non-compliant actors, the impacts of this measure do not contribute to the EANDCB.</p> <p>However, the EANDCB of the measure rounds to zero regardless.</p>

Opinion: EANDCB validation

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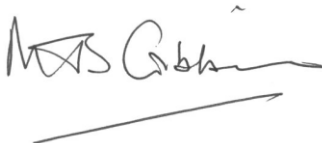
Date of implementation: see table

Departmental assessment

Classification	All qualifying regulatory provisions
Equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB)	£1.5 million (combined)
Business net present value	-£12.8 million (combined)

RPC assessment

Classification	All qualifying regulatory provisions
EANDCB – RPC validated ¹	£1.5 million (combined)
Business Impact Target (BIT) Score ¹	£7.5 million (combined)



¹ For reporting purposes, the RPC validates EANDCB and BIT score figures to the nearest £100,000.

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RPC reference number: RPC17-3870(1)-DfE-OFSTED, RPC17-3871(1)-DfE-OFSTED, RPC17-3872(1)-DfE-OFSTED

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Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman