



Department for Education

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

11th June 2025

Dear Sir Martyn,

As you know, Ofsted reform is central to our drive for high and rising standards, and our determination to make sure that children and young people from all backgrounds and circumstances, and in all parts of the country, achieve and thrive.

It is disappointing therefore that Ofsted has found it necessary to delay its consultation response, and the publication of inspection materials, until the start of September.

Ofsted's work is essential to this government's mission to break down barriers and open up opportunity, setting every child up for success, helping every child to achieve and thrive at school, and building skills for opportunity and growth so that every young person can following the pathway that's right for them. We therefore share a determination to ensure the new arrangements provide the rigour, consistency, transparency, granularity and fairness that parents, carers and professionals need and expect.

At the same time however, it is important that Ofsted delivers to the expected timescales, to build confidence in the Inspectorate and avoid additional challenges for headteachers and leaders in planning ahead for changes to the system. I note your absolute commitment to introduce the revised framework in November as planned and communicated to the sector.

I look forward to receiving regular reports on your progress in the coming weeks and months. My expectation is that Ofsted's engagement plans will give education providers a comprehensive understanding of the new arrangements before they are introduced. This will of course need to be accompanied by in depth training of your inspection workforce.

To support you in this work, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Dame Christine Gilbert as the new Chair of Ofsted. Christine brings with her a wealth of experience, knowledge and skills that will be essential to Ofsted during this critical period. I know that Christine will play a full part in ensuring the successful delivery of these reforms by bringing the strong challenge and support that all organisations need.

Alongside all of this activity, it will be important that during the first half of the autumn term, Ofsted continues to focus on inspecting and monitoring schools and providers that are not performing at the level we expect.

I look forward to our continued engagement on this vital work. I can confirm that the Department will publish its consultation response in September.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bridget Phillipson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education