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Statistical work plan

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Foreword

In Data and Insight, we have recently embraced new ways of compiling, analysing and presenting our statistics. We have ensured that Ofsted uses sound and robust data to inform decisions and we have committed to increasing the transparency of the work we do. Many of the data that Ofsted publishes are administrative data, although, we also make extensive use of data available through the Department for Education, Skills Funding Agency and other external sources. In 2015, we will continue to ensure that our data and publications are of high quality.

This is the second annual publication of our work programme. It highlights some of our recent developments and outlines some of our future plans. As some of our analysis work is demand driven, we are unable to account for this in advance. However, a schedule for the release of our official statistics is published on the Gov.uk statistics webpage.¹

Rob Pike, Chief Statistician

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics?departments%5B%5D=ofsted>

About us

The Chief Statistician leads the Data and Insight team within Ofsted. The team has a wide range of responsibilities, supporting Ofsted's operations as well as analysing the outcomes of inspection. Within Ofsted, the Chief Statistician works directly with the Strategy Director, while on professional statistical matters he is accountable to the National Statistician.

Ofsted's Data and Insight team:

- supports inspection and improvement, including the development and use of statistical models to prioritise providers for inspection
- supports the wider Ofsted organisation in providing and collecting data, publishing data and developing data sources and measures
- analyses data to inform decision making
- oversees regular reporting against business needs
- is responsible for producing and publishing official statistics that meet the responsibilities laid out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics².

The work plan for the year April 2015 to March 2016 has been developed to meet the needs of users of our statistics including policy colleagues, other government departments, the media and the public.

Data and Insight work

Supporting inspection

Data and Insight provides a range of data tools and pre-inspection briefings to support Ofsted inspectors before, and during, inspection.

Social care analysts provide detailed pre-inspection briefings to the lead inspector for every local authority before inspection under the Single Inspection Framework. Analysts bring together both internal and external data and soft intelligence to give inspectors a brief of the whole of the local authority area including, but not limited to, its geography and infrastructure, the population, health, political composition, employment, its social care and multi-agency services to children and families, and any known performance data or outcomes of services it provides. Social care analysts also support inspectors both on- and off-site during the inspection and they quality-assure data contained within the final inspection report.

Further education and skills analysts provide pre-inspection briefings to inspectors before inspection visits. These briefings contain detailed data on performance, such as success rates for apprenticeships, workplace learning and classroom learning,

² www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice.

achievement data for school sixth forms and sixth form colleges, and data covering learner numbers and funding, destinations and NEETs (Not in Education, Employment, or Training).

Performance data for schools and further education and skills are also made available via web-based tools, such as RAISEonline³ and the Data Dashboard⁴.

RAISEonline is an in-depth source of school data available to schools, school governors and Her Majesty's Inspectors, which allows them to analyse schools' past performance. RAISEonline is not publicly available because it identifies individual children.

The Data Dashboards provide a snapshot of performance data for maintained schools and further education & skills providers in England. They are updated annually. They provide the public, including governors and parents and carers, with an easily accessible summary of the performance of children and learners. The schools Data Dashboard also compares performance with other similar schools. It is a tool to drive accountability by ensuring that governors and parents and carers have the right information to ask the right questions of the leaders of their school or provider.

Analysis and insight to drive improvement and prioritise resources

Data and Insight will continue to provide high-quality analysis and insight to drive improvement in the sectors we inspect and regulate, ensuring that Ofsted's resources are used in an efficient way and provide value for money.

Data and Insight provides – and will review – statistical models to prioritise the selection of providers for inspection. This ensures that inspection resources are focused where they are most needed and can make the most difference.

A range of tools will assist operational colleagues in promoting the quality and consistency of inspection across the country. Investigations will be carried out to collate evidence on issues of national concern, for example the supply of teachers within schools, so that any decisions are made using a solid evidence base. Within each region, the insight derived from high-quality and comprehensive analysis will be used operationally to target interventions and improvement work. Analysis briefing is used in media work and communications with local partners in improvement.

Development work

Data and Insight works with other government departments and with external data providers to improve data quality and to develop new data measures. In particular,

³ www.raiseonline.org.

⁴ <http://dashboard.ofsted.gov.uk>.

we work with the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Data and Insight also works to ensure that the systems and processes used to manage Ofsted data are robust. Data are triangulated with other sources to identify inconsistencies and data owners are encouraged to correct data issues at source, therefore driving up the quality of administrative data.

Ofsted Annual Report

Data and Insight provides the data and analysis to inform the Chief Inspector's Annual Report. In addition, Data and Insight provides commentary and support to colleagues compiling the report. Data and analysis for the Annual Report are provided at national and regional level and by remit.

Ad-hoc research and thematic inspections

Data and Insight provides advice and resource for ad-hoc research and thematic inspections designed to investigate emerging issues and trends. Some of this work is carried out as part of the Ofsted thematic inspection programme while other research arises from the findings of inspections and from the regular reporting undertaken by Ofsted.

Official statistics

Ofsted statistics provide policy makers, Parliament and wider users with reliable statistical information for developing policy, monitoring and operational decision making. Official statistics aid the accountability of Ofsted and provide the public with access to data. These statistics cover the following areas:

- Early years and childcare, including children's centres
- Maintained schools
- Independent schools
- Initial Teacher Education
- Children and families services
- Further education and skills.

Some statistics are published on a quarterly basis while others are published every six months or annually. The appropriate frequency of publication has been decided following consultation with users.

What we did in 2014–15

- Published an update on progress for most able pupils, using timely data.
- Supported a number of published reports:
 - Going the extra mile: excellence in competitive school sport

- No-notice thematic inspections of independent faith schools
 - Overcoming barriers: ensuring that Roma children are fully engaged and achieving in education
 - Transforming 16 to 19 education and training: the early implementation of 16 to 19 study programmes
 - Alternative provision - a report on the findings from the first year of a three-year survey
 - School leaders' views on the impact of inspection
 - The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it?
 - Below the Radar: low level disruption in classrooms
 - The pupil premium: an update
- Launched the further education and skills and the special schools Data Dashboards, which present a selection of high-level performance measures for providers where data are available.
 - Made very substantial contributions to regional reports covering the eight Ofsted regions for the Ofsted Annual Report.
 - Consulted with users of early years, children's centres, further education and skills and social care official statistics to ensure that we are providing users what they need and in the format they need it in.
 - Consulted with providers of social care data to ensure that 'respondent burden' is appropriate – 'respondent burden' is the estimated total time and financial resources the respondent uses to generate, maintain, retain and provide us with information.
 - Improved the presentation of our children's centres and social care official statistics, working with the National Statistician's office.
 - Reviewed and published statistical policy documents.
 - Published pre-release access to statistics lists.
 - Published quality reports for some social care official statistics.
 - Published Freedom of Information datasets.
 - Improved our internal analysis and presentation of messages to aid policy formulation.

What we will do in 2015–16

- Support the regions for the Ofsted Annual Report.
- Consult with users of early years, children's centres, further education and skills and social care official statistics to ensure that we are providing users with what they need and in the format they need.
- Consult with providers of social care data to ensure that 'respondent burden' is appropriate – 'respondent burden' is the estimated total time and financial

resources a respondent uses to generate, maintain, retain and provide us with information.

- Improve the way we present our official statistics of children's centres and social care, working with the National Statistician's office.
- Review and publish statistical policy documents.
- Publish pre-release access to statistics lists.
- Publish quality reports for some social care official statistics.
- Publish Freedom of Information datasets.