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Statistical work plan

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Foreword

In Data and Insight we have recently embraced new, efficient ways of compiling, analysing and presenting our statistics. We have strived to ensure that Ofsted uses sound and robust data to inform decisions and we have committed to increasing the transparency of the work we do. Much of the data published by Ofsted are administrative data although we also make extensive use of Department for Education data and other external sources. In 2014 we will continue to work on ensuring that our data and the publications we produce from external data are of high quality.

This is the first 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 our statistics webpage¹.

Rob Pike, Chief Statistician

¹ www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/statistics.

About us

The Chief Statistician is responsible for the Data and Insight team within Ofsted. The team comprises a range of staff and roles including pre- and post-inspection reporting and analysis of data for publication to inform inspections, to support inspection development and decision making. Within Ofsted, the Chief Statistician works directly with the Director, Corporate Services and Commercial while on professional statistical matters he is accountable to the National Statistician.

Ofsted's Data and Insight team:

- provides data and insight to support inspection and improvement, including the development and use of statistical models to prioritise providers for inspection
- supports the wider Ofsted organisation in providing and supporting data collection, data analysis, the publication of data and the development of data sources and measures
- oversees regular reporting against business needs
- has responsibility for the production and publication of official statistics – meeting the responsibilities laid out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics².

Data and Insight comprises around 100 staff; about 70 of these staff are involved in data compilation and analysis. Of these, around 20 staff are professional statistical grades and members of the Government Statistical Service. Staff are located across four sites; London, Bristol, Nottingham and Manchester.

The work plan for the year April 2014 to March 2015 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

Analysis and insight to drive improvement and prioritise resources

The main priority of Data and Insight in 2014–15 is to continue providing 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.

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 most difference.

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

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 behaviour of pupils 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 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 within source data, and data owners are encouraged to correct data issues at source, therefore driving up the quality of administrative data.

Ofsted Annual Report and remit reports

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 surveys

Data and Insight provides advice and resource for ad-hoc research and surveys designed to investigate emerging issues and trends. Some of this work is carried out as part of the Ofsted survey 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 the purpose of policy development, monitoring and operational decision making. Official statistics aid the accountability of Ofsted and provide the public with access to data. Statistics published by Ofsted 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.

Info-graphics

Data View³ is a cutting-edge interactive analysis tool which allows users to easily access and compare Ofsted inspection data. It enables simple analysis of inspection judgements by region, local authority and type of provider, and facilitates comparisons with 'statistical neighbours'. It is updated regularly with the latest inspection judgements.

Performance data

Performance data are made available via several web-based tools. These tools include RAISEonline⁴, the Schools Data Dashboard⁵ and the Regional Performance Data Tool⁶.

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 Schools Data Dashboard provides a snapshot of school performance data for maintained schools in England and is updated annually. It provides the public, including governors and parents and carers, with an easily accessible summary of the performance of children in their school and how this compares with the performance of 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.

The Regional Performance Data Tool was released in 2013 alongside Ofsted's Annual Report and enables users to compare performance measures across regions in an interactive way.

What we did in 2013–14

- Published a major report into the education provided to children from a disadvantaged background, including publishing background data.
- Launched the Schools Data Dashboard which presents a selection of high-level performance measures for each maintained school where data are available.

³ <http://dataview.ofsted.gov.uk>.

⁴ www.raiseonline.org.

⁵ <http://dashboard.ofsted.gov.uk>.

⁶ www.ofsted.gov.uk/annualreport1213/regional-performance-2012.

- Made changes to Data View to ensure that the infographics tool is more user-friendly.
- Published social care data on Data View for the first time. This comprises data on children's social services and local authority inspections.
- Produced regional reports covering the eight Ofsted regions for the Ofsted Annual Report.
- Published a regional performance data tool.
- Consulted with users of RAISEonline to improve the summary report of school performance data.
- Consulted with providers of social care data to ensure that 'respondent burden' is appropriate – 'respondent burden' is the estimated total time and financial resources expended by the respondent to generate, maintain, retain and provide us with information.
- Improved the commentary with our further education and skills official statistics, working with the National Statistician's office.
- Published a leaflet highlighting statistics about offenders and prison education.

What we will do in 2014–15

- Investigate a range of topical issues relating to the education and care of young people and adults, identifying and synthesising evidence to contribute to the national debate.
- Develop and publish a Special Schools Data Dashboard and a Further Education and Skills Data Dashboard.
- Develop and maintain statistics documentation as required by the UK Statistics Authority and the National Statistician.
- Publish pre-release access to statistics lists.
- Support the UK Statistics Authority assessment of social care statistics.
- Further engage with users of Ofsted statistics to ensure that we meet user needs.
- Develop our outputs further to ensure that they comply with the Code of Practice and with Government Statistical Service good practice.
- Continue to improve and streamline Ofsted data collection processes.
- Continue to provide expertise and support across the Ofsted Survey Programme. This involves providing methodological support, data advice and analysis and ensuring that good practice is followed thus leading to more robust evidence for consideration.