

**Ofsted: simplification with respect to the inspection of learning and skills 2009-2010/ 2010-2011**

<b>2009-10</b>					
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Outcome/benefit</b>	<b>Source of proposal</b>	<b>Cost savings/impact</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Revision of common inspection framework	The revised common inspection framework introduced from September 2009 for inspection of colleges, work-based learning and nextstep provision brings into effect the benefits explained below.	With the cycles of inspection of colleges, work-based learning and nextstep coming to an end in 2009 a simpler but more impactful set of inspection arrangements have been put in place with the Common Inspection Framework 2009. This has been developed through wide consultation with learners, employers and the FE and skills sector.	See below.	Implementation of common inspection framework from September 2009.	Effective from September 2009.
1. Less frequent inspection for good or better colleges and providers, and reduced tariff inspections	Between 2005 and 2009 all colleges and work-based learning providers were inspected once in this four year cycle. The new arrangements from September 2009 will see good or better providers inspected	Ofsted proposed in the common inspection framework consultation, and was agreed by 54% of respondents.	The inspection tariffs and frequency changes for the different types of inspection activity will deliver savings which will ensure that costs can be covered by the learning and skills directorate budget as	To be brought into effect for inspection of colleges, work-based learning and nextstep providers from September 2009.	Effective from September 2009 (for colleges, work-based learning and nextstep providers).

	<p>within 6 years of their last, while satisfactory providers will be inspected within four years.</p> <p>Reducing the tariff means fewer inspector days per inspection. This will mean on average less inspection time on each inspection and hence less inspection overall.</p>		<p>projected over the next three years in order to meet BRE requirements. This would see by 2010-2011, the first full year of operation of the new framework, a reduction of around 1000 inspector days from 2008-09 levels; a saving of approximately £500,000.</p>		
2. Shorter notice of inspection	<p>Notice of inspection will be reduced from 6 to 12 weeks to only 3 weeks from September 2009. The benefit is that there will be reduced pressure arising from anticipation of the inspection and the planning for it.</p>	<p>Proposed in the common inspection framework consultation and agreed by 64% of respondents.</p>	<p>Not readily quantifiable</p>	<p>To be brought into effect for inspection of colleges, work-based and nextstep from September 2010.</p>	<p>Effective from September 2009 (for colleges, work-based learning and nextstep providers).</p>
3. Shorter, clearer inspection guidance	<p>A new inspection handbook has been issued in conjunction with the new common inspection framework. This single 74 page handbook covers most types of provision, so is shorter and easier to use than the multiple</p>	<p>Ofsted.</p>	<p>Not readily quantifiable. The value and use of handbook will be reviewed using feedback from the sector.</p>	<p>Implementation of common inspection framework from September 2009.</p>	<p>Effective from September 2009.</p>

	handbooks used for different types of provision in the previous framework.				
4. Shorter, clearer inspection reports	The inspection report format has been revised. It is shorter and designed to be easier to read. There is also a specific section that is readily separated out for use by learners and employers.	Ofsted. Format endorsed through consultation.	Not readily quantifiable	Implementation of common inspection framework from September 2009.	Effective from September 2009.
5. Reduced document requirements for inspection	The Handbook for Inspection specifies that inspection evidence should consist of working documents, not information prepared specifically for the inspection. As inspection is based on collecting first-hand evidence, documentation requirements are kept to a minimum.	Ofsted. Structure endorsed through consultation.	Not readily quantifiable	Implementation of common inspection framework from September 2009.	Effective from September 2009.
6. Use of FfE indicators for inspection selection and planning	Will ensure use of common performance management system (FfE) for use in inspection selection and planning.	Proposed in the common inspection framework consultation and agreed by 64% of respondents.	Not readily quantifiable but ensures that inspection focuses on providers where improvements are most needed	Implementation of common inspection framework from September 2009.	Effective from September 2009.

7. Simplification of prison inspection report process	Fewer inspector days Ofsted report contained within HMIP report structure and so presents a single integrated view of standards in each prison.	Ofsted/ HMI Prisons	Will save around 60 inspector days per year (= £33,000)	Effective from September 2009	September 2009
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<b>2010-11</b>					
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Outcome/benefit</b>	<b>Source of proposal</b>	<b>Cost savings/impact</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
1. Planned streamlining of adult and community learning inspections	Align them with new common inspection framework; in particular shorter inspection notice	Ofsted. Subject to consultation Oct to Dec 2009	Not readily quantifiable	Implemented through pilots from January 2010. In full from April 2010.	April 2010
2. Planned streamlining of Department of Work and Pensions and contracted employment inspections	Align them with new common inspection framework; shorter inspection notice and alignment with other inspection activities to better manage the impact on providers.	Ofsted. Subject to consultation Nov 2009 to Jan 2010	Not readily quantifiable	Implemented in full from April 2010.	April 2010
3. Work with NES to assist in alignment of Bespoke Accreditation Scheme visits with Ofsted inspections	Fewer interventions from regulators	Ofsted/ NES	Not readily quantifiable	Fully from April 2010	April 2010

4. Ensure inspection has the flexibility to address new NES initiatives for employer training such as embedded and accelerated learning	Will ensure that inspection can be adapted to inspect initiatives which help reduce burden upon employers	Ofsted.	Not readily quantifiable	Fully from April 2010	April 2010
5. Improved working with new SFA audit service to plan visits and share findings	Will ensure that inspections/audit visits are coordinated to reduce demands on providers and maximise learning and use of findings	Ofsted/ LSC/ SFA.	Not readily quantifiable	Fully from April 2010	April 2010
6. Review of implementation of new Common Inspection Framework	It is intended that the new Common Inspection Framework will have greater impact on the standard of services provided by those inspected (but with less contact). This will be monitored, leading to an interim report in March 2010 and a more detailed one (by means of external agency evaluation) by March 2011.	Ofsted.	Not readily quantifiable	Fully by	March 2011