



Department of Education
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Dr Liz Fawcett
(by email)

Ref : DE1-14-42

29 January 2014

Dear Dr Fawcett

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your email of 2 January 2014, in which you asked for verification of the information that you had outlined in 'Table 3' of your email.

You indicated that you intended to present the unverified information to other parties.

The majority of the data within 'Table 3' that you provided was inaccurate. The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) has validated your data as requested and updated your table with the required corrections. Un-validated data was also supplied to ETI in your previous request of 6 December 2013 regarding schools in South Belfast; this data has also been validated and can be found in 'Table 1' attached.

Could you please ensure that any parties that have been provided with your invalid data (in 'Table 1' and 'Table 3') are advised accordingly of the inaccuracies.

Among the inaccuracies in your information was the fact that you did not include short or follow-up inspections. All inspections, irrespective of duration, take account of the overall effectiveness of the school, achievements and standards, quality of provision and leadership and management. Short inspections (two days) are for small, low risk primary schools. It is right that we take a proportionate approach to inspection to both reduce any burden on the school and to ensure that inspection resources are targeted to where they are most needed and will have the greatest impact rather than a one size fits all approach.

Inspections of other primary schools and all post-primary schools are five days. You compared us to Ofsted but interestingly all Ofsted school inspections regardless of school type or risk are usually two days. Follow-up inspections (of schools that are satisfactory or below), also evaluate the aspects outlined above and are therefore a robust inspection process. The follow-up inspection assures parents that the necessary improvements identified at the original inspection have been implemented. There is also ongoing monitoring of all schools by the District Inspector which is unique to schools in Northern Ireland.

If you are unhappy with the level of service you have received in relation to your request, you may ask for an internal review within two calendar months of the date of the letters. You may write to Garth Manderson, Departmental Information Manager, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, BT19 7PR, or send an email to garth.manderson@deni.gov.uk if you wish to make a complaint.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a review of our original decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Hayes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

LYNN HAYES (MRS)
Head of Inspection Services Branch