

Our ref: FOI/13/01927

Dr L Fawcett  
By email

6 January 2014

Dear Dr Fawcett

### **Freedom of Information request**

Thank you for your email dated 6 December 2013, in which you requested information under the *Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA)*.

You requested that we provide you with answers to the questions below. In conjunction with our response, you may find it useful, to look at the Inspection and Review section on the Education Scotland website. Please see the link below.

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/>

I would also suggest you read our publication *Arrangements for Inspecting Schools in Scotland (August 2011)*, which can be found at the link below.

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/SchoolInspectionFramework2011\\_tcm4-684005.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/SchoolInspectionFramework2011_tcm4-684005.pdf)

You have made reference to 'Education for Scotland'. Please note that effective from 1 July 2011 a new Scottish Government executive agency, Education Scotland, took over the responsibilities of HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE). I am therefore replying to your request as Education Scotland.

#### **1. What information, if any, are schools currently required to provide to parents about school inspections (i) when their child enrolls at a particular school (ii) prior to a school inspection?**

(i) There is no legal requirement for schools to provide this information. Parents are able to find the school inspection report on Education Scotland's website <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/> or on Scottish Schools Online <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/scottishschoolsonline/>. Many schools have a link to their latest inspection report on their own website but this is not compulsory.

(ii) Education Scotland provides a letter to parents with information about the inspection when it is announced.

**2. Are schools required to publish inspection reports relating to their school on their school website in a timely manner?**

There is no legal requirement for schools to do this. However, this would be considered as good practice, and many schools do this already.

**3. Are schools required to let parents know how they can access the most recent inspection report relating to that school?**

There is no legal requirement for schools to do this. However, this would be considered good practice, and many schools do this already.

**4. What criteria are used by Education for Scotland as the basis for their inspections of primary and post-primary schools?**

The term 'post-primary' is not used in Scotland. Instead we use the term secondary schools which are attended by young people aged between 12 and 18. The criteria used are available in the publications at the links below.

*How good is our school?, third edition:*

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/HowgoodisourschoolJtEpart3\\_tcm4-684258.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/HowgoodisourschoolJtEpart3_tcm4-684258.pdf)

Inspection Advice Note 2013-14:

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESInspectionAdviceNote20132014\\_tcm4-809751.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESInspectionAdviceNote20132014_tcm4-809751.pdf)

**5. Is this criteria published on the Education for Scotland website?**

Yes, please see links above.

**6. Do all full standard inspections of primary schools examine the following:**

- **The quality of play-based learning in P1 and P2**

Yes.

- **The quality of provision relating to the following subjects and areas of learning:**

- Physical education, including the quantity of that provision**
- ICT**
- Science and technology**
- History**
- Geography**
- Art**
- Music**

All of the above are included in the inspection of the curriculum. The criteria used are outlined in the Inspection Advice Note 2013-14. Please see link below.

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESInspectionAdviceNote20132014\\_tcm4-809751.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESInspectionAdviceNote20132014_tcm4-809751.pdf)

**viii. The development of group-work skills**

**ix. The development of research and investigation skills**

The above are included in the inspection of children's learning experiences. The relevant Quality Indicator 2.1 can be found in *How good is our school?*. Please see below.

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/HowgoodisourschoolJtEpart3\\_tcm4-684258.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/HowgoodisourschoolJtEpart3_tcm4-684258.pdf)

- **The quality of a school's communication with parents, including the existence of a parent council through which parents can make their views known to the school.**

Yes. If the school has a Chair of the Parent Council a member of the inspection team arranges a meeting with him/her.

- **The quality of a school's communication with pupils, including the existence of a school council through which pupils can make their views known and have an input into the running of the school**

Yes. This is included in the inspection of children's learning experiences (Quality Indicator 2.1 in *How good is our school?*) and their involvement in bringing about improvement in their schools (Quality Indicator 5.9 in *How good is our school?*). Please see link below.

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/HowgoodisourschoolJtEpart3\\_tcm4-684258.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/HowgoodisourschoolJtEpart3_tcm4-684258.pdf)

**7. Do all inspections of post-primary schools examine the following:**

The term 'post-primary' is not used in Scotland. The notes below refer to secondary schools in Scotland, attended by young people aged between 12 and 18.

- **The quality and quantity of physical education and sports provision**

Yes.

- **The quality of the school's communication with parents, including the existence of a parent council through which parents can make their views known to the school**

Yes, as in question 6 above.

- **The quality of the school's communication with pupils, including the existence of a school council through which pupils can make their views known and have an input into the running of the school**

Yes, as in question 6 above.

**8. How does Education for Scotland seek the views of parents when it carries out school inspections?**

We seek parental views through the use of pre-inspection questionnaires. We also arrange for groups of parents to meet with a member of the inspection team during the inspection week.

**9. If questionnaires are used, could you please supply a copy of the questionnaires which are currently sent to parents whose children attend a primary school or a post-primary school which is being inspected.**

Questionnaires can be found for primary and secondary inspections at the links below.

Primary:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/about/primaryschoolinspections/questionnaires.asp>

Secondary:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/about/secondaryschoolinspections/questionnaires.asp>

**10. Are the above questionnaires sent to all parents?**

Guidance about how we issue questionnaires can be found by following the links at question 9.

**11. Do parents submit their responses direct to Education for Scotland or via the school?**

Parents are sent questionnaires with pre-paid envelopes and respond directly to Education Scotland.

**12. How does Education for Scotland seek the views of pupils at primary and post-primary schools which it is inspecting?**

We seek the views of pupils through pre-inspection questionnaires. We arrange for groups of children/young people to meet with a member of the inspection team during the inspection week. We also talk to children/young people during lesson observations and through other activities for example, in the dinner hall.

**13. If school inspectors talk to pupils, how does Education for Scotland select the pupils to whom it talks in both primary and post-primary schools respectively?**

The starting point for school inspections is the school's own self-evaluation. The focus of discussions with pupils will depend on what emerge as the key issues in any given school - but typically inspectors talk to pupils about their learning experiences, their achievements, their role in improving the school and school ethos. The groups of pupils are sometimes selected by the headteacher and sometimes by the inspection team. During lessons, inspectors may ask pupils about what they are working on, or to tell them about work on display.

**14. Typically, how many primary school pupils and how many post-primary school pupils does Education for Scotland speak to when it carries out an inspection?**

Typically, in an average-sized secondary school (roll 1000), we would have around five focus groups of young people (groups of six to eight, but sometimes much bigger) to discuss various themes, and we speak with many more pupils during lessons and other activities. In an average size primary, we would normally have between one and three focus groups (around six to eight). As with secondary schools we would cover a variety of themes and also speak to pupils through lesson observations and other activities.

**15. Are post-primary schools assessed on the provision of all subjects which are taught at that school during full standard inspections?**

Provision for subjects in secondary schools is evaluated as part of the inspection of the curriculum (Quality Indicator 5.1 in the *Inspection Advice Note 2013-14*).

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESInspectionAdviceNote20132014\\_tcm4-809751.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESInspectionAdviceNote20132014_tcm4-809751.pdf)

**16. How does Education for Scotland select the subjects which it investigates in-depth with regard to each full standard inspection of a post-primary school?**

We do not evaluate provision for individual subjects in depth.

**17. What is the ratio of inspectors to teachers which Education for Scotland uses to determine how many inspectors are required to visit a particular school?**

Appendix 1 shows the formula we use to calculate the size of an inspection team in relation to the size of the school.

**18. What is the minimum proportion and number of lessons observed by Education for Scotland during a full standard primary school inspection?**

There are no minimum proportion or number.

This depends on what we find in the school, and whether the school can provide us with its own robust evaluation of learning and teaching. Often we respond to requests to see particular lessons to observe good practice, or sometimes we need

to see more lessons as the learning and teaching we are seeing is less strong than the school claims. Typically, in a secondary school of 1000 pupils, we do around 50-60 observations of learning, usually half-lessons. In a typical primary school of 200, we might do around 20 observations of learning.

**19. What is the minimum proportion and number of lessons observed by Education for Scotland during a full standard post-primary school inspection?**

See question 18 above.

**20. What is the minimum proportion of teachers whose teaching is observed by Education for Scotland during a focused or standard primary school inspection?**

In most primary schools, we would see all or almost all teachers.

**21. What is the minimum proportion of teachers whose teaching is observed by Education for Scotland during a focused or standard post-primary primary school inspection?**

There is no minimum proportion. Typically, we would see around two thirds of teachers, but this varies for reasons explained at question 18.

**22. How often does Education for Scotland carry out a full standard inspection of each primary school and a full standard inspection of each post-primary school?**

We no longer have a cyclical approach to school inspection. We inspect a statistically valid sample of schools each year. For more information, please see section three of the document at the link below:

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/SchoolInspectionFramework2011\\_tcm4-684005.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/SchoolInspectionFramework2011_tcm4-684005.pdf)

**23. Has the policy with regard to frequency of inspections changed within the past three years and, if so, what was the previous policy?**

Until 2008, we followed what was known as the 'generational cycle' whereby secondary schools were inspected every six years, and primary schools every seven years.

**24. What was Education for Scotland's annual expenditure in 2011-12 and 2012-13?**

Net operating costs for 2011-12: £31,139,000.

Net operating costs for 2012-13: £29,795,000.

**25. In 2012-13, what proportion of Education for Scotland's annual expenditure was spent on delivery of its services (i.e. inspections and regulatory events)?**

Percentage breakdown below:

Service delivery	73%
Software sales	1%
Grant payments	8%
Glow/Interconnect	18%

**26. What budget has Education for Scotland been allocated for 2013-14?**

Current budget is £30,158,000.

**27. What was the total expenditure in 2012-13 for primary school inspections, and for post-primary school inspections, respectively?**

Primary schools:	£1,649,000
Secondary and all-through schools:	£728,000

**28. How many staff inspectors are employed by Education for Scotland to carry out primary and post-primary inspections, respectively, and at what grades?**

We do not use the term 'staff inspectors'. We have 49 HM Inspectors (HMI) in the primary and secondary school inspection team. A high proportion of these 49 HMI (40/49) inspect both primary and secondary schools. The primary and secondary school inspection team includes 47 full-time permanent HMI, and two Assistant Inspectors who are deployed on a 'zero hours' basis and are paid at a daily rate. We also have three Health and Nutrition Inspectors (HNIs) who join both primary and secondary school inspections. Our HMI are at Grade C2. Our HNIs are at Grade B3. Assistant Inspectors are at the equivalent to a C2 grade.

**29. How many inspectors are employed on a freelance or contractual/ sub-contractual basis by Education for Scotland to carry out primary and post-primary inspections, respectively, and at what grades?**

As mentioned above, we have two Assistant Inspectors working for the primary and secondary team.

For information we also have 85 primary school Associate Assessors and 52 secondary school Associate Assessors. Associate Assessors are practising teachers, depute headteachers and headteachers, and education authority officers who join two to three inspections each year.

Associate Assessors are paid by their employer and we don't have a grade for them. Education Scotland reimburses their employer a daily rate for their time on inspections.

**30. How many inspections and regulatory events (of all types of educational and training institution inspected by Education for Scotland) were carried out in the financial year 2012-13 (or in 2012 if the information is not available for the financial year)?**

We carried out 359 inspections/reviews during 2012-13, details below.

<b>Sector</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
Pre-school*	162
Pre-school Follow-through	12
Day special	16
Residential special	9
Secure accommodation	0
All-through	5
Secondary	26
Primary	101
Learning Community	14
Validated Self Evaluation (VSE)	7
Educational Psychology Service (EPS)	2
College Review	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>359</b>

Note:

\*Pre school includes the following

Stand alone	96
Primary NC	61
All-through NC	3
Day Special NC	2
Residential special NC	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>

**31. How many full standard inspections of primary schools were carried out in the financial year 2012-13 (or the calendar year 2012)?**

101 Primary schools.

**32. How many full standard inspections of post-primary schools were carried out in the financial year 2012-13 (or the calendar year 2012)?**

As previously stated we do not use the term 'post-school'. To answer this question please see breakdown below.

Secondary schools	26 inspections
All-through schools	5 inspections
College reviews	5 inspections



**33. Could you please provide details of all thematic reviews, relating to schools, which have been published by Education for Scotland within the last three years, and of any press releases which were issued with regard to these reviews?**

**September 2012: Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)**

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/GIRFEC%20FINAL%2024-10-12\\_tcm4-735258.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/GIRFEC%20FINAL%2024-10-12_tcm4-735258.pdf)

Press release enclosed as an attachment.

**September 2012: Science 3-18 curriculum impact report**

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/Science3to18v4\\_tcm4-731895.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/Science3to18v4_tcm4-731895.pdf)

Press release enclosed as an attachment.

**September 2012: Social Studies 3-18 curriculum impact report**

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/SocialStudies3to18\\_tcm4-731894.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/SocialStudies3to18_tcm4-731894.pdf)

Press release enclosed as an attachment.

**September 2013: Updated Science 3-18 curriculum impact report**

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/Sciences3to182013Update\\_tcm4-817013.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/Sciences3to182013Update_tcm4-817013.pdf)

No press release issued.

**September 2013: Updated Social Studies 3-18 curriculum impact report**

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/SocialStudies3to182013Update\\_tcm4-817061.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/SocialStudies3to182013Update_tcm4-817061.pdf)

No press release issued.

**September 2013: Health and Wellbeing 3-18 curriculum impact report**

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/HealthandWellbeing3to18\\_tcm4-814360.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/HealthandWellbeing3to18_tcm4-814360.pdf)

Press release can be found at link below:

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/newsandevents/educationnews/2013/education/september/news\\_tcm4816999.asp](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/newsandevents/educationnews/2013/education/september/news_tcm4816999.asp)

**September 2013: Creativity Across Learning 3-18 curriculum impact report**

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/Creativity3to18\\_tcm4-814361.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/Creativity3to18_tcm4-814361.pdf)

Press release can be found at link below:

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/newsandevents/educationnews/2013/education/september/news\\_tcm4816999.asp](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/newsandevents/educationnews/2013/education/september/news_tcm4816999.asp)

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review. Your request should explain why you wish a review to be carried out. This should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

Vivian Bogle  
Business Manager