

Inspection reports are popular with parents

Over 4 in 5 parents think that Ofsted's inspection reports are useful, a [YouGov survey](#) has found. And interim findings from our own survey of schools, colleges and further education and skills providers are similarly positive. These findings are published today in [Ofsted's annual report and accounts 2019–20](#). Almost 9 out of 10 said that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the inspection experience and that the feedback would help them to improve.

Eight out of 10 parents feel that the inspection report they read portrayed the school (or other type of provider) accurately. The survey also found that three-quarters of parents said that the information we provide is reliable and two-thirds of parents agree that our work helps to improve the standard of education.

Our new approach to inspection

Last autumn, we changed the way we inspect schools with our new [education inspection framework](#). Since then, our inspection reports have placed a greater emphasis on what it's like to be a child or young person in that school, as well as having a new focus on the curriculum. This also applies to early years and further education. When it comes to the curriculum, half of parents now feel that their child's school places as much focus on what is being taught as it does on getting good results.

Around half of schools and further education and skills providers responded to a survey evaluating our new approach to inspection. Close to 9 out of 10 are 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the inspection experience and felt that the feedback inspectors gave on the quality of education will help them to improve.

The survey comes soon after we announced our approach to inspection from September. Inspectors will carry out visits to schools and colleges. We will publish the outcomes of these collaborative conversations with school and college leaders in a brief letter, so that parents can understand what steps are being taken to help children back into full time education.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman, said:

I am really pleased that Ofsted remains a trusted voice for parents when it comes to their children's education and that they see us as a force for improvement in schools.

And it's heartening that nearly 9 out of 10 school and college

leaders said that the feedback they received through their inspection would help them to improve. That's the difference we want to make.

Recent months have been tough for children, parents and those at the front line of our schools. I'm looking forward to pupils and teachers returning in September. For the first term back, we won't be inspecting schools as they get back on their feet. Instead our visits in the autumn term will help parents and the government understand what schools and colleges are doing to bring pupils up to speed.

This is the fifth year that Ofsted has carried out this research. YouGov carried out the survey of 1,101 parents between 12 and 25 February.

The annual report and accounts

The [Ofsted annual report and accounts 2019-20](#) shows that we carried out 3,200 school inspections, 8,500 early years inspections and 200 further education and skills inspections under the education inspection framework. It also shows that we carried out 3,167 social care inspections; 25 local area inspections, along with the Care Quality Commission; and 15 initial teacher education inspections.

Routine inspections are currently suspended, but we have continued to carry out emergency inspections of education and social care settings when we have had concerns about safety.

[Chancellor requests OTS review of Capital Gains Tax](#)

The Chancellor has written to the OTS, to ask the OTS to undertake a review of Capital Gains Tax and aspects of the taxation of chargeable gains, in relation to individuals and smaller businesses.

As well as looking at opportunities to simplify administration and the impact of technical issues, the review will explore areas where the present rules can distort behaviour or do not meet their policy intent, to help ensure the system is fit for purpose.

The scoping document for the review will also be published today, together with a call for evidence and an online survey.

Defence Minister and Head of the US Army sign Modernisation Agreement

News story

Minister of the Armed Forces James Heappey and US Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy have signed a Memorandum of Agreement on joint modernisation of both the British and US Army.



The signing took place at the Ministry of Defence where the Minister for the Armed Forces and the US Secretary of the Army discussed plans to work together

The agreement is a sign of intent to formalise a number of ongoing initiatives between the two Armies, boosting opportunities to co-operate effectively as modern warfare continues to evolve.

Key cutting-edge capabilities have been identified for closer collaboration to help narrow the gaps between UK and US forces so we can operate seamlessly together in future battlespaces.

This will involve developing innovative solutions together to tackle shared threats and operational challenges that affect both nations and help protect and defend peace and security across the globe.

Minster for the Armed Forces James Heappey said:

In an age of great power competition and constant conflict, there is an even greater onus on us to work together with our greatest allies.

This agreement signals our shared determination to develop the

novel capabilities that will give us that battle-winning edge and opportunity for the defence industry on both sides of the Atlantic. It is a reminder that, in a more challenging and uncertain world, Global Britain remains the United States partner of choice.

The initial plan aims to cover complementing capabilities from 2023 to 2027, and will focus on:

- Networks – the shared development of digital infrastructure to support UK/US operations
- Long Range Precision Fires – improving the bi-lateral capability development
- Future Vertical Lift – creating closer affiliation in the development of helicopter capability
- Soldier and Ground Lethality – building on the existing collaboration to improve the effectiveness of Land forces
- Assured Positioning, Navigation and Timing (APNT) – providing greater coherence in the development of Multi-Domain technologies

The signing took place at the Ministry of Defence where the Minister for the Armed Forces and the US Secretary of the Army discussed in detail the plans to work together to modernise programmes and capabilities of shared importance.

US Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy said:

The United Kingdom, one of our strongest allies, has helped secure our shared interests and values since the World Wars of the last century. Today, we continue to rely on our allies to posture ourselves for future threats, project power, deter and, if necessary, defeat our adversaries. This partnership allows costly and complex problems to be distributed and helps protect the industrial base through enabling faster innovation and cost-sharing towards achieving our modernization priorities.

This agreement is in line with the ambitions of the upcoming Integrated Review, with modernisation and pioneering capabilities at its core, protecting the UK and our allies against the threats of tomorrow.

The review will look at modernising military equipment and improving the capability of our world-class Armed Forces and intelligence agencies alongside our Allies.

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[UN Human Rights Council 44: Interactive Dialogue with the COI on Burundi](#)

Madam President,

The United Kingdom reaffirms its full support for the Commission of Inquiry and welcomes this presentation.

We commend President Ndayishimiye's commitment to tackling COVID19. The UK is contributing \$665 million to global efforts to develop vaccines, treatments and testing for COVID19, and to the IMF fund in support of vulnerable economies.

We also welcome the emphasis President Ndayishimiye placed in his inauguration speech on the rights of all Burundians, the need to tackle corruption, and his invitation to opposition parties to participate in the country's development. We look forward to seeing progress on these crucial agendas. In particular, the increased volume of human rights violations in recent years underscores the importance of restoring the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Government must put an end to the violations committed by state agents and the Imbonerakure.

We hope President Ndayishimiye's leadership will herald a new chapter in which our governments can work together for shared prosperity, and respect for human rights.

Madam President,

We would welcome the Commissioners' views on what steps the new Government should take in the next six months to demonstrate its commitment to human rights.

Thank you.

[Lynne Owens reappointed as NCA Director General](#)

News story

The Home Secretary has today (14 July 2020) announced the reappointment of Lynne Owens as Director General of the National Crime Agency.



Lynne Owens will remain in the post for a further two years from January 2021.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

Lynne is an outstanding Director General and I am pleased to confirm her reappointment.

The NCA has a critical role to play in the fight against serious and organised crime.

Lynne's reappointment means the organisation will continue to benefit from her leadership at a crucial time in our collective mission to protect the public.

Lynne Owens said:

I'm delighted to have been asked by the Home Secretary to continue to lead the National Crime Agency and the UK's fight against serious and organised crime.

It has been a true honour to lead this incredible agency for the past four and a half years, and I am immensely proud of our officers who do such a vital job in protecting the public.

We have delivered some truly ground-breaking operations and successes against serious and organised crime ensuring the public are better protected as a result.

Of course there is always more to do across the system which is why I am pleased to be asked to continue in my role.

I look forward to continuing to lead and enhance the system response, ensuring we have the right tools and resources to keep people safe.

Lynne Owens took up her post as Director General of the NCA in January 2016.

During a career in law enforcement over 30 years, she has held a number of

policing roles including Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and Chief Constable of Surrey.

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