

Hundreds of formerly outstanding schools reinspected

From 2012, schools that had been judged outstanding were legally exempt from further regular inspection, unless there were specific concerns about the school. The exemption was lifted in 2020.

Today's commentary notes that over 80% (308) of these schools that had a graded inspection last year did not retain the outstanding grade. The majority were judged to be good. However, around a fifth were rated requires improvement (17%) or inadequate (4%).

When selecting schools for inspection, Ofsted prioritised those that had gone the longest without inspection, which for some was as long as 15 years ago. The average for schools inspected last year was 13 years.

When the exemption ended, 43% of exempt schools had not had a graded inspection for at least 10 academic years, and a further 38% had gone between 5 and 10 academic years.

Since their last inspection many of these schools will have experienced significant change, including a new headteacher, new governors, or becoming an academy managed by a multi-academy trust.

Ofsted's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman, said:

Regular inspection gives parents confidence in the quality of their child's school. Exempting outstanding schools deprived parents of up-to-date information. It also left a lot of schools without the constructive challenge that regular inspection provides.

The exemption was a policy founded on the hope that high standards, once achieved, would never drop, and that freedom from inspection might drive them even higher. These outcomes show that removing a school from scrutiny does not make it better.

There were 3,900 outstanding primary and secondary schools when the exemption was introduced, and 3,400 were outstanding when it ended.

Some 1,400 schools remained outstanding throughout the period because they were not inspected at all and so kept their grade. About 1,900 schools ceased to be outstanding (usually after an inspection triggered by a risk assessment), and 1,500 additional schools were judged outstanding during the exemption period.

[A return to dialogue remains the only means of resolving insecurity on the Korean Peninsula](#)

Thank you President, and I thank Under-Secretary-General DiCarlo for her briefing.

We too condemn in the strongest terms DPRK's further serious breach of Council resolutions, which threatens international peace and security.

The Council last discussed the DPRK's ballistic missile launches just over two weeks ago. At that meeting, all but two Council members emphasised the seriousness of the situation and supported a clear response. Yet despite the egregious violation of Council resolutions, the same two members prevented the Council from fulfilling its role.

When the DPRK tested intercontinental ballistic missiles in 2017, the Council's response on each occasion was robust and unified, with the unanimous adoption of resolutions 2371, 2375 and 2379. Negotiations between the DPRK and the US began within months.

A return to dialogue remains the only means of resolving insecurity on the Korean Peninsula. However, continued Council silence in the face of DPRK's provocations will not achieve this. We therefore support the draft Presidential Statement proposed by the US. The UK will continue to call upon DPRK to cease its illegal activity and to engage meaningfully with offers of dialogue from the United States and the Republic of Korea. Diplomacy remains the only option..

President, we strongly encourage the DPRK to invest in food and medicine for its people rather than its illegal weapons programme, to provide access for UN staff, and allow aid to flow freely into the country. We welcome the 1718 Committee's continued efforts to quickly exempt humanitarian assistance from sanctions.

Thank you.

[Join the Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee](#)

The Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) is a partnership with oversight of flood and coastal erosion risk management.

The committee is recruiting 3 independent members who will play a crucial role in deciding local priorities, considering climate change impacts and approving programmes of work.

Wessex RFCC Chair David Jenkins said:

We see the effects of climate change quite visibly in flooding and coastal erosion. And this threat affects all areas differently.

This is why we recruit from a broad and diverse pool of candidates to best represent our communities so they may lend their input on projects ranging from protecting thousands of homes to minimising flood risk using natural methods.

You do not need to be a technical expert to represent your community. All you need is an interest and willingness to learn about flood and coastal risk management and the principles of sustainable development. The work is rewarding and you will see tangible results from it.

The committee approves the Environment Agency's regional flood spending and programme of works. It raises a local levy and works with other organisations to encourage investment and innovation to help communities in need of flood and coastal erosion solutions.

The committee is supported by the Environment Agency and its members are appointed by local authorities, alongside independent members with different areas of focus.

Independent members are appointed as impartial individuals, not as representatives of any organisation. They are expected to attend at least 4 committee meetings each year. The role is voluntary, but members can claim reasonable expenses and, if eligible, a fixed financial loss allowance.

Two of the vacancies are for members to represent general interests and the third vacancy is for a member to represent water and utilities from 1 April 2023.

To apply, please send in a copy of your CV and covering letter to WessexRFCC@environment-agency.gov.uk. Deadline for applications is 11.59pm on Tuesday 6 December 2022.

Background

[Wessex RFCC](#) runs along the south coast from Lyme Regis in the west to Christchurch in the east, along the Bristol Channel from Lynton to Thornbury, stretching inland to Devizes, and covers local authority councils including Somerset, Dorset, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, Bristol, South Gloucestershire, most of Wiltshire and part of Gloucestershire and Hampshire. See this on a [map](#).

Diplomatic World Cup in Paraguay unites in football and fraternity

World news story

Over twenty teams joined a day of football in the first ever diplomatic World Cup in Paraguay.



EN: Official image of the Diplomatic World Cup Asuncion 2022 / ES: Imagen Oficial de la Copa Mundial Diplomática Asunción 2022

The British Embassy in Asuncion, with the support of the Paraguay Football Association (APF) organized the first ever diplomatic football tournament, named “Diplomatic World Cup Asuncion 2022”. The tournament took place at the “Defensores del Chaco” national football stadium and saw the Paraguay delegation as the winner of the tournament.

EN: Paraguay brought home the Diplomatic World Cup Asunción 2022 / ES: Paraguay trajo a casa la Copa Mundial Diplomática Asunción 2022

The tournament ran in two parallel competitions. The main cup, also known as the “World Cup” saw the delegations of France and Paraguay clash together in a fierce final match, with a Paraguay victory of 5-0. The “Silver cup” brought together the runner-up teams from the elimination phase, with a victory from the Korea team 3-0 against Germany.

EN: The France team took the vice-champion cup for the main tournament / ES: El equipo de Francia llevó la copa de vicecampeón para el torneo principal

EN: The Korean team won the Silver Tournament Cup / ES: El equipo de Corea se llevó el Torneo Copa Plata

EN: The German team were runner-ups to the Silver Cup / ES: El equipo de Alemania fue vicecampeón de la Copa Plata

A tournament of values

The tournament was founded on the values of fraternity, comradery, teamwork and respect to diversity. To this end, the rules of the tournament ensured the participation of diplomats and members of over twenty embassies and international organizations represented in Paraguay.

The games were mixed men and women. Each game lasted twenty minutes each, with the field split in four smaller fields to allow simultaneous encounters.

All teams joined the tournament by paying a donation. The funds raised will be donated to a local organization that brings together football and development work.

Participant teams

- Paraguay Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Embassy of France
- Embassy of Korea
- Embassy of Germany
- Embassy of Argentina
- Embassy of Brazil
- Embassy of Chile
- Embassy of Italy
- Embassy of Japan
- Embassy of Spain
- Embassy of the United States
- Embassy of Uruguay
- World Bank
- Andean Development Corporation (CAF)
- Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID),
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- Secretariat of the MERCOSUR Permanent Review Tribunal.

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£31 million contract supports specialist jobs on future fighter jet programme

Under a three-year contract, the Aurora Engineering Delivery Partnership (EDP) led by QinetiQ, will provide technical support to FCAS and the Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S) Catalyst delivery team, which is responsible for delivering the latest combat air capabilities to UK frontline commands.

The contract will support around 45 jobs based in Bristol, Boscombe Down, Farnborough, Malvern, Bath and Lincoln.

Alex Chalk, Minister for Defence Procurement said:

The Future Combat Air Systems programme continues to make good progress, as demonstrated by this latest engineering contract. I am delighted that highly skilled UK industry personnel will lend their support and expertise to the programme, as we work together to deliver a next-generation fighter jet for the future.

The delivery will also include the EDP partners Atkins and BMT, along with a number of subcontractors in the EDP provider network.

Richard Berthon, Director Future Combat Air, added:

This contract with Aurora and QinetiQ is a demonstration of our commitment to working with the UK's leading defence technology companies on FCAS. Their expertise will be vital to the programme as we work at pace to deliver a next-generation combat air capability by 2035.

Nic Anderson, Chief Executive UK Defence, QinetiQ said:

The Aurora Engineering Partnership with the UK MOD and DE&S continues to go from strength to strength, providing technical support to the most complex acquisition programmes. Our work with Catalyst DT will help accelerate new ways of working using digital engineering methodologies in supporting the next generation of combat air platforms.

Work carried out by the Aurora Engineering Partnership led by QinetiQ will

enable DE&S to deliver essential engineering strategies for future FCAS capabilities. The partnership will provide engineering support – initially focusing on Human Performance, Safety and Systems Engineering disciplines.

The FCAS programme currently employs around 2,500 highly skilled people across the UK including at combat air sector industrial hubs in Scotland, the north-west and south-west of England. The programme now employs 1,000 apprentices and graduates, offering attractive employment opportunities in STEM subjects such as industrial digitisation, artificial intelligence and data analytics.

Tempest, a highly advanced future fighter, is due to enter service in 2035, operating at the heart of a wider Future Combat Air System. Tempest was announced at the 2018 Farnborough International Air show and since then, has made significant progress with a flying demonstrator currently being built and the 'Generation Tempest' initiative being launched to create early careers job opportunities across the UK.