

Deferral of initial teacher education inspections

Information for initial teacher education partnerships

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This document sets out Ofsted's approach to the deferral of inspections of initial teacher education (ITE) partnerships.

Reference to 'ISPs' in this document refer to Ofsted's inspection service provider partners, who administer and conduct inspections on behalf of Ofsted.

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361

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There are a limited number of circumstances in which a decision can be taken that an initial teacher education (ITE) inspection should not go ahead on the planned dates. The purpose of this policy is to set out Ofsted's approach to the deferral of ITE inspections.

Ofsted's policy is that deferral or cancellation should only be granted at either stage 1 or stage 2 if:

- the provider's representative or a member of the ITE partnership's senior management team is subject to a current police investigation that would be compromised by an inspection of the ITE partnership
- the ITE partnership has experienced a recent major incident, such as a fatal accident to a trainee or key member of the partnership's staff
- there are other exceptional circumstances that, in the judgement of the Regional Director, justify deferral or cancellation of the inspection. The nature of such circumstances should be recorded fully.

Applications to defer a planned inspection on the grounds that the provider's representative is away from the ITE partnership will not be accepted, as trainees in the ITE partnership are still receiving training.

In the case of illness or death of the provider's representative, professional judgement will be exercised by the Regional Director.

Provider's representatives lodging a request for deferral should study the criteria above carefully and ensure that at least one of the criteria applies before they make a request at either stage 1 or stage 2.

Requests should be made in writing to the inspection service provider (ISP) administrator named on the inspection notification letter.

Arrangements for the inspection at either stage 1 or stage 2 should continue to be made while the request for deferral is dealt with.

Deferral process

The chart on the following page is the process followed by Ofsted.

Deferral process for use at stage 1 or stage 2

