

Supplementary written evidence submitted by Ofsted

Thank you for having myself and Paul Joyce at your recent evidence session on prison education. I hope that you and the Committee found the session helpful. I said I would write to you with a breakdown of inspection grades by education provider.

As you know, there are four providers of prison education delivering the education and training in prisons under the current Prison Education Framework (PEF) arrangements that began in April 2019. The table below shows the overall effectiveness judgements of prisons broken down by education provider. We have included those prisons inspected since April 2019 when the Prison Education Framework came into effect. The overall effectiveness grades are as follows¹:

PEF provider	Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate	Total	Total number of prisons that these providers currently deliver in
MK College	0	2	3	1	6	19
Novus	0	3	9	2	14	45
PeoplePlus	0	3	4	0	7	22
Weston College	0	2	3	1	6	19
All PEF providers	0	10	19	4	33	106

¹ These are the Ofsted overall effectiveness grades for the inspection of education, skills and work in prisons inspected since the PEF contracts were in place from 1 April 2019. Those inspections undertaken between April 2019 and January 2021 were undertaken under the previous inspection handbook applying at that time. Those undertaken in February and March 2020 were undertaken under the current prison inspection handbook aligned with the education inspection framework [link]. Inspections of education, skills and work in prisons was suspended from 17 March 2020 to the present on account of Covid-19 and will re-commence from 25 October 2021.

The current overall effectiveness rates for education, skills and work in all prisons can be seen here:

Reports published as at:	Total number of prisons and young offender institutions inspected	Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate
28 February 2021	115	2	50	47	16

It is important to note that PEF providers only deliver part of the education, skills and work offer within a prison and we inspect and grade the entire provision, not just the PEF provider’s contribution. All education providers operate within the constraints of the regime implemented by the governor within each prison. For this reason, our judgements are made against the prison.

I would also like to correct one part of my evidence where I said that we ‘work jointly with the chief inspector of prisons, who deals with budget’. HMI Prisons does not examine budgets or spending allocations as part of its inspection methodology. I hope you found this information helpful.

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