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29 March 2018

Fiona Bruce MP
House of Commons
London
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Amanda Spielman
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Dear Ms. Bruce,

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 134564:

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what proportion of illegal or unregistered schools identified by his Department and Ofsted have a religious basis.

Your recent Parliamentary Question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

The purpose of Ofsted's inspection of unregistered schools is to determine whether or not the institution is operating illegally, as opposed to its religious character or otherwise.

Because of the nature of unregistered schools, it is difficult to determine the school's religious character. The religious background of an unregistered school is therefore based on what an inspector observes when visiting an institution and is an approximation rather than a specific or definitive categorisation.

Between January 2016 and January 2018, Ofsted has identified around 360 possible unregistered settings and inspected just under 200. Approximately one in four have been identified as having a faith background¹.

I hope you find the information helpful.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Spielman

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Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/unregistered-schools-management-information>