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4 April 2025

The Rt Hon Wendy Morton MP **Sir Martyn Oliver**

His Majesty’s Chief Inspector

Member of Parliament for Aldridge-Brownhills

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

Sent by email to: wendy.morton.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Ms Morton

# PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBERS 41086 AND 41087

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of removing one-word Ofsted judgements on parental (a) engagement and (b) understanding.

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many new Full-Time Equivalent jobs in Ofsted are being created to support the transition to School Report Cards.

Your recent Parliamentary Questions have been passed to me for response as His Majesty’s Chief Inspector for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills.

In response to your first question, last year we held our Big Listen, the largest consultation in Ofsted’s history. Through this, we heard that parents wanted more detailed information and a more nuanced view of a provider’s strengths and areas for improvement. Only four in 10 parents supported overall effectiveness judgements and three in four told us they wanted separate judgements, grades or summaries for each evaluation area.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Based on all the feedback we received through the Big Listen consultation from parents and carers, children and learners and education professionals, we have tried to design a system that drives higher standards for children, improves reporting for parents, and reduces pressure on everyone working in education.



We’re proposing to introduce a new-look report card that will provide a more balanced picture of education providers by reporting on a much wider range of areas, including behaviour, achievement, attendance, teaching and the curriculum, leadership and governance, and inclusion.[[2]](#footnote-2) Through our proposed five-point grading scale, each area will have a clear grade and description of what we find when we inspect a provider. This will give parents more detailed information about each part of a provider’s work, creating a clearer and fairer picture of what providers are doing well and where they could improve. This should also help parents to meaningfully engage with providers on any issues that may need attention, or to reassure them about their child’s education.

We’re consulting on our proposals until 28 April and recent independent research from YouGov shows parents seem to support the broad approach we have set out.3 We commissioned YouGov to survey parents on our proposed new-look report cards and we found that:

* 67% said they prefer Ofsted’s proposed new-look report cards to current inspection reports
* 78% agreed the information in the report cards would be useful to them and the same proportion said they would make it easy to compare schools
* 86% said the report cards were easy to understand and 84% found the use of colour-coding helpful
* 66% said they support Ofsted continuing to grade schools on a scale.

The full results of this research have been published by YouGov and are available online.[[3]](#footnote-3)

In response to your other question, Ofsted has not employed any new staff in our Education Directorate to support our inspection improvement work and all resource has been found within the organisation’s current resource.



In our Digital team, we have moved existing staff to work on developing the new and updated services necessary for the delivery of the renewed education inspection framework and the publication of report cards. Where this is not possible, we have secured, or plan to secure, additional temporary resources to complete the work, which will be equivalent to an additional temporary 10.5 FTE. Please note that this work is not structured in a way that the portion devoted to school report cards can easily be separated from our other inspection improvement activity supporting the delivery of the renewed education inspection framework and the publication of report cards for early years, schools, independent schools, further education and initial teacher education.

In addition, where some of our services are provided under commercial arrangements, we intend that the necessary work is carried out by the relevant companies. In this case, we will contract for the delivery of a piece of work as we currently do, rather than the provision of a set of resources, and therefore do not have FTE for this.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



# Sir Martyn Oliver

His Majesty’s Chief Inspector

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1. ‘Hearing feedback, accepting criticism and building a better Ofsted: the response to the Big Listen’, Ofsted, September 2024; [https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ofsted-big-listen.](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ofsted-big-listen) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ‘Improving the way Ofsted inspects education’, Ofsted, February 2025; [https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspects-education.](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspects-education) 3 ‘Independent research shows high parent support for Ofsted’s report card proposals’, Ofsted, March 2025; [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/independent-research-shows-high-parent-support-forofsteds-report-card-proposals.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/independent-research-shows-high-parent-support-for-ofsteds-report-card-proposals) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. ‘Parents on Ofsted report cards’, YouGov, March 2025; [https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/explore/institution/Ofsted.](https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/explore/institution/Ofsted)

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 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)