

Relationship between research and inspection

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- Examples of a big and small research project
- How we involve inspectors in research
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OFSTED STRATEGY AT A GLANCE

OUR MISSION
Raising standards, improving lives

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE

We are a force for improvement through intelligent, responsible and focused inspection, regulation and **insights**.

OUR PURPOSE

Ofsted exists to raise standards of education and children's social care and improve lives. We do this through independent inspection and regulation of the many thousands of organisations providing education, training and care, from childminders to training providers, schools to children's homes, as well as sharing what we find.



OUR VALUES



Children and learners first



Independent



Accountable and transparent



Evidence-led

Ofsted General Assembly 2022

Ofsted's Insights and Research (I&R) Directorate

What is the I&R Directorate?

- A new directorate created earlier in 2022 led by Alex Jones
- Provides data, analysis, research and evaluation across all remits.
- Works in partnership with inspectors



Alex Jones

Data & Insight (D&I)

- Led by Jason Bradbury, Chief Statistician – oversees 100 statisticians, analysts and data scientists
- Delivers pre-inspection information and advice
- Provides analysis of inspection evidence and outcomes
- Publishes around 70 statistical releases each year
- Carry out quantitative analysis – for example, the relationship between inspection judgements/evidence and pupils' future outcomes, using longitudinal data
- Provide analytical support to regional teams



Jason Bradbury

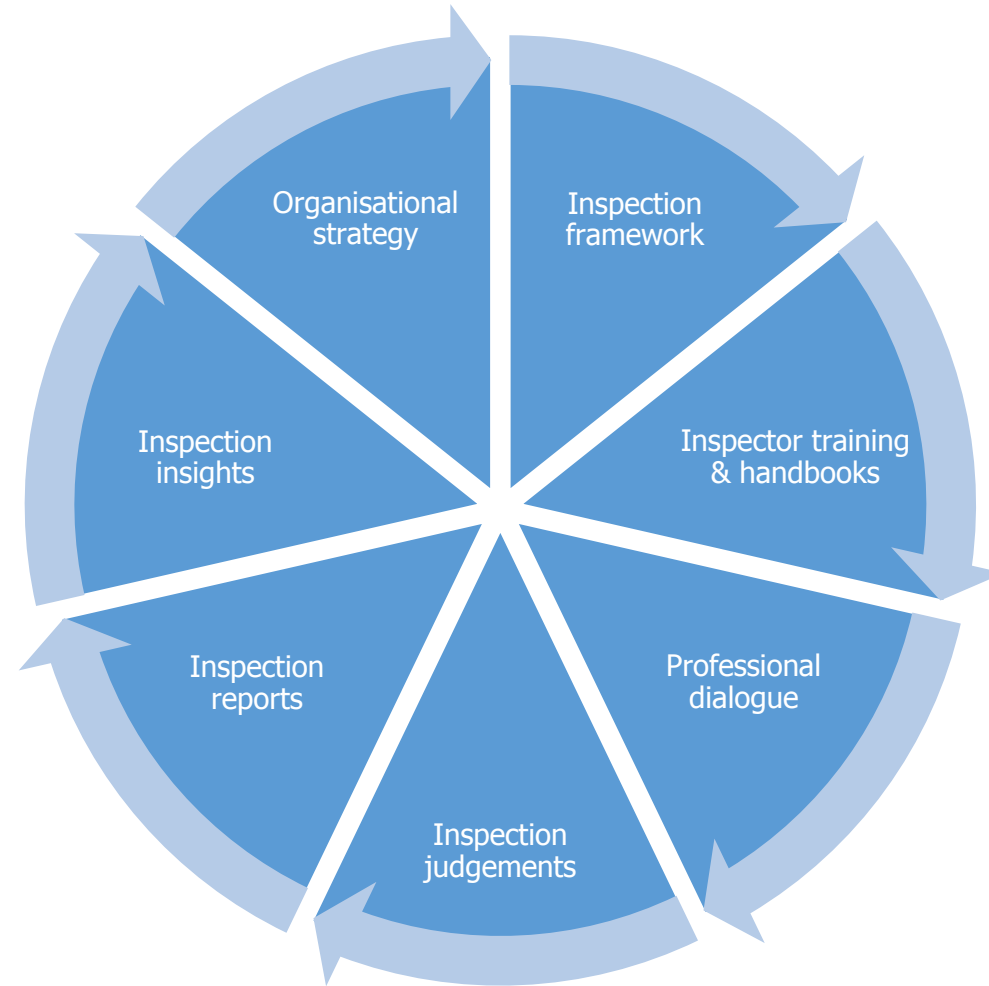
Research & Evaluation (R&E)

- Led by Dr Verena Braehler, oversees 45 social researchers
- Leads on developing evidence base and fill knowledge gaps
- Evaluates policy and practice to understand what works
- Publishes around 30 research reports each year
- Oversees production of Ofsted's Annual Report



Verena Braehler

Classic inspectorate model



A big example of Ofsted research

Independent review of tutoring in schools and 16 to 19 providers

- Two-year evaluation to assess the progress and effectiveness of the government's £1 billion tutoring catch up programme
- Evaluation funded by the Department for Education at a cost of circa £1.9 million
- Delivered by Ofsted researchers and inspectors
 - Research team (approximately 950 days) manage project, develop research tools, analyse data, write published reports
 - Inspectors (approximately 850 days) collect data during research visits to schools and 16-19 providers: over 63 visits in 2021-22, around 80 planned for 2022-23
- Impact of first year:
 - Termly real-time insights for the Department on how tutoring programme is working
 - Yearly published report generating significant media, sector and public interest
 - Also influenced Ofsted inspection practice: tutoring cannot make up for deficits in weak curriculum



How do we deliver a big research project?



A very small example of Ofsted research

Roundtable discussions with Senior His Majesty's Inspectors to inform Ofsted's Annual Report

- Internal roundtable discussions to test and bring to life key themes for the Annual Report ahead of publication
- Delivered online, 1 hour each for 4 different remits
- Participants: Chief Inspector, 8 senior inspectors per remit, 1-2 researchers
- Cost: £5K



How do we involve inspectors in research?

- As researchers
- As participants



Dr Al Mistrano, His Majesty's
Inspector for Schools

"The work undertaken by research colleagues and inspectors bridges the gap between educational research and actual experiences in schools."

"Taking part in research projects gives inspectors the opportunity to be at the heart of knowledge creation in Ofsted, and education as a whole – a really exciting place to be!"

What are common obstacles, and how do we overcome them?

Competing priorities:
good governance

Shifting landscape:
mix of short- and
long-term projects;
break points

Research standards:
linking into
Government Social
Research standards /
expertise

Research ethics:
committee with
external scrutiny

Big picture: relationship between inspection and research

Use insights to decide on big strategic priorities for today and in future

Informing inspection frameworks through:

- Review literature
- Consult with public
- Test inspection approaches, e.g. deep dive methodology

Publishing insights using qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods research: 1 Annual Report, 30 research reports, 70 statistical releases per year

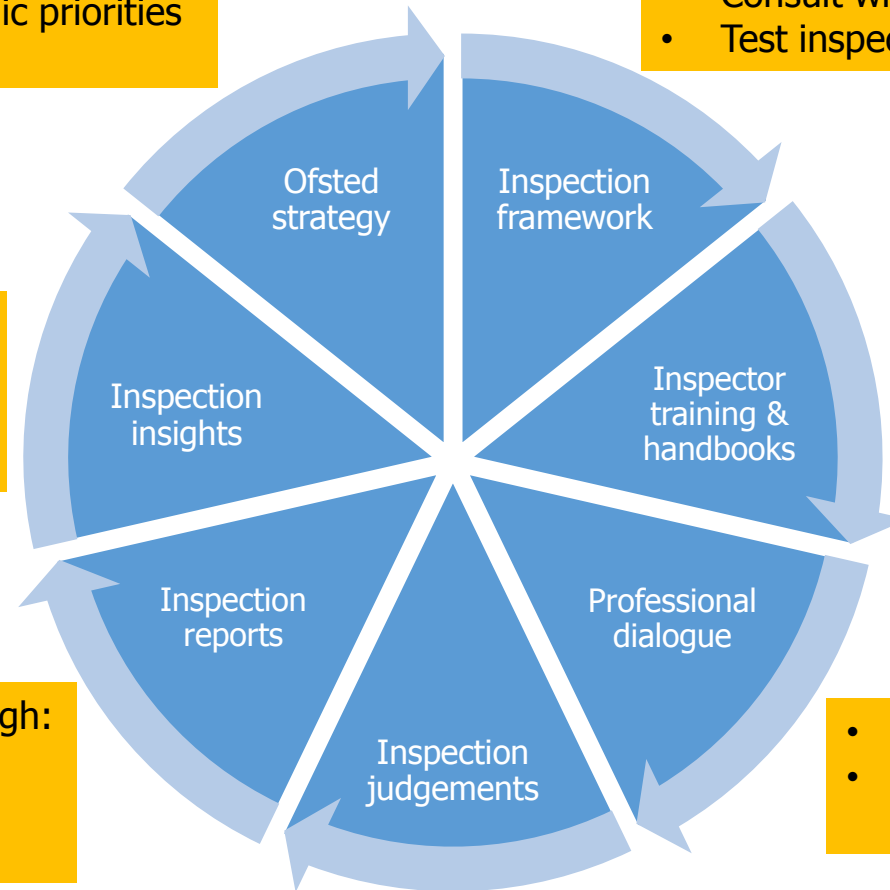
Adding depth to training & handbooks through:

- Curriculum research reviews
- Evaluation of inspector training

Analysis of inspection reports through:

- Searchable database
- Evidence retrieval
- Data science

- Risk modelling to inform inspection schedule
- Data packs to support inspections and professional dialogue with providers



Plans for 2023 SICI workshop in England

- We look forward to welcoming you to a face to face SICI workshop in England
- Theme: relationship between research and inspection
- We will soon send SICI national coordinators a survey to explore preferences in terms of location and topics / activities

Annex



More detail on the cost of research

Principle

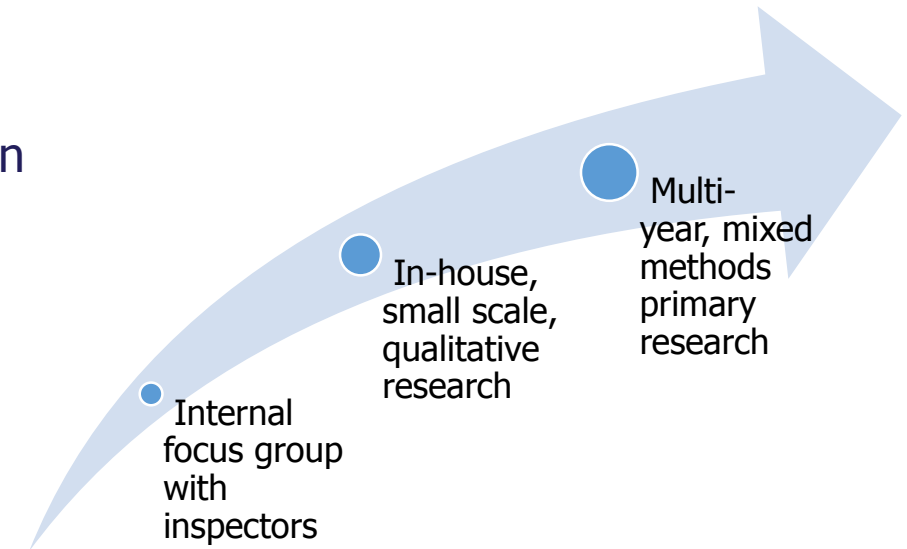
- We tailor the research methodology to the research question

Core costs

- Inspector time (£1,000 / day)
- In-house researcher time (£250 / day)
- Externally commissioned researcher (£300-1,000 / day)
- Travel and hotel costs for field research

Other costs / considerations

- Research ethics adviser / academic peer reviewer (£500 / day)
- Journal subscriptions, software packages
- Time and expertise from other business areas, e.g. procurements
- Partnerships and secondments with other organisations
- Receiving funding from other government departments



Education research publications in 2022

- [Alternative provision for primary-age pupils in England: a long-term 'destination' or a 'temporary solution'?](#)
- ['Now the whole school is reading': supporting struggling readers in secondary school](#)
- [Independent review of tutoring in schools and 16 to 19 providers](#)
- [A review of the quality of T-level courses: interim report](#)
- [Securing good attendance and tackling persistent absence](#)
- [Education recovery in schools: summer 2022](#)
- [Education recovery in early years providers: summer 2022](#)
- [Education recovery in further education and skills providers: summer 2022](#)
- [Education recovery in prisons](#)
- [Prison education: a review of reading education in prisons](#)
- [Research review series: English](#)
- [Research review series: computing](#)
- [Research review series: PE](#)

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