

**The Local Authority Role in School Quality Assurance**

**Preparing for Inspection - Second Edition**

**Clarifications and additions**

**1. Pupil premium metrics**

Ofsted (private communication, 27 November 2014) has confirmed that the drafting in the last bullet point on page 10 of the Framework is correct:

- where pupils eligible for the pupil premium achieve less well than pupils not eligible for the pupil premium nationally

The intention is to compare '*pupils eligible for the pupil premium locally*' with '*pupils **not** eligible for the pupil premium nationally*' because '*that is what we should all be expecting for these pupils*'.

Ofsted makes the point that there are some local authorities where the attainment gap between '*pupils eligible for the pupil premium locally*' and '*pupils **not** eligible for the pupil premium locally*' is low, largely because the achievement for all pupils is low.

However, as Ofsted also says, the metric leads to a ranking of local authorities, and that ranking is not affected by the comparator.

**2. Quality assurance of inspections**

On page 18 at paragraph 45, the quality assurance process is carried out between the inspector carrying out the quality assurance and the inspectors carrying out the local authority inspection. This process is not shared with the local authority. The 'inspection evidence base' is the general term for the entire written record of the inspection, including evidence notebooks as detailed in the Handbook.

**3. Academy performance management**

The LASI Framework makes clear that serious concerns about academy performance should be made through Regional School Commissioners to the DfE. The DfE publishes (under the 'transparency agenda') a range of communications: '*pre-warning notices*', '*warning notices*' and '*pre-termination warning notices*' on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-letters-to-academy-trusts-about-poor-performance>

These notices provide a range of important and detailed information as to the reasons why the DfE is concerned. These notices can be cross-referred to Ofsted reports. Unfortunately, at present, the academies' responses do not appear to be published, though these may be available locally through Regional Schools Commissioners, possibly through Freedom of Information requests, though it would clearly be desirable for local authorities to receive copies of such communications as a matter of routine.

Between 1 September 2010 and 2 December 2014, there have been 63 pre-warning notices, six warning notices, and two pre-termination warning notices. Clearly these provide important evidence to local authorities when considering the quality of education provided by academies.

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7 December 2014