



Supported Accommodation Association

SA INSPECTION FRAMEWORK SPARK NOTES

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“Alone we might be small, but together we have a voice“

SA INSPECTION FRAMEWORK

THE INSPECTION (GLOBAL ASPECTS)

Inspections focus on the lasting impact of service delivery on children's experiences and progress. This involves evaluating a representative sample of children reflecting the provider's size, scope, and child diversity. Children's voices and perspectives are central to the inspection process.

Measuring the Difference: Judgements are based on the positive difference providers make in children's lives. Ofsted will focus on the impact of the services, ensuring children benefit from their experiences.

Risk-Based Approach: Leaders and managers who consistently deliver high-quality services may be subject to less frequent or streamlined inspections, acknowledging their positive track record.

Balancing Regulations and Outcomes: Inspectors consider both the impact of any regulatory breaches on children and how these breaches influence the overall inspection outcome and potential enforcement actions. Not all breaches automatically lead to an "inconsistent quality" outcome. Even with a "consistently strong" outcome, requirements may still be issued to address any specific concerns.



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THE OUTCOMES

Same outcome model as in the consultation

Outcome 1: Consistently strong service delivery leads to typically positive experiences and progress for children. Where improvements are needed, leaders and managers take timely and effective action. The next inspection will be within approximately 3 years.

Outcome 2: Inconsistent quality of service delivery adversely affects some children's experiences, and this may limit their progress. Leaders and managers must make improvements. The next inspection will be within approximately 18 months.

Outcome 3: Serious or widespread weaknesses lead to significant concerns about the experiences and progress of children. Leaders and managers must take urgent action to address failings. The next inspection will be within approximately 6 months.

Outcome is a professional evaluation to: (1) assess whether the support for children is effective and (2) determine what impact that support is having on children's experiences and progress. Failure to meet all the criteria will not automatically lead to a weaker outcome.



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INSPECTION NOTICE

Providers can expect to receive an inspection announcement call from the Inspection Support Team (IST) by 9:30 am, followed by a confirmation email summarizing the details. The IST will also arrange for the lead inspector to speak with the Registered Manager (RSM) later that morning.

While inspectors won't physically arrive on-site for two working days after the announcement, the inspection process officially begins at the time of notification. Information gathered before their arrival, including details requested in the soon-to-be-released Annex A, will be included in the overall evaluation.



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INSPECTION DETAILS

The number of inspectors and duration of the inspection will vary depending on the size and complexity of the supported accommodation provider. Most providers can expect a team of two inspectors: a lead inspector (LI) and a team inspector (TI), spending a maximum of three days on-site within a single working week.

For smaller providers, with fewer locations, the inspection might be conducted by just one inspector for a two-day duration, including time for feedback. Larger providers, with a wider geographical spread or complex service structures, may have more inspectors or a longer inspection period. The final decision will be made by the regulatory inspection manager (RIM) considering these factors.



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MONITORING VISITS

Monitoring visits are conducted within the framework established by the Social Care Common Inspection framework

(SCCIF). These visits typically occur for three key reasons: (1) Addressing concerns: This may involve investigating specific issues raised about a service provider's operation. (2) Supporting providers after an "outcome 3" inspection:

This refers to situations where an inspection identifies "inconsistent quality" in service delivery, and additional monitoring helps ensure necessary improvements are implemented, and (3) Verifying compliance with notices: This occurs when a provider has received a formal notice requiring them to address specific regulatory breaches, and a monitoring visit assesses their progress toward compliance.



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INSPECTION CRITERIA

The criteria to be used during inspections are available on the SCCIF.

The SAA will promote several events to explore these criteria
[more info soon on our website and social media]





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