



Rhagoriaeth i bawb - Excellence for all

Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg
a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru

Her Majesty's Inspectorate
for Education and Training in Wales

News release

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Estyn launches public consultation on inspection

Today, Estyn, the education and training inspectorate for Wales, launches a public consultation seeking views on proposed changes to the way education and training providers in Wales are inspected. Feedback from the public consultation will be used to design a new inspection framework which will be implemented in 2010.

Estyn has already carried out the first phase of an informal consultation. Findings indicate that most members of the general public and many professionals working within education and training would favour shorter, sharper inspections with more support and monitoring focused on weaker providers.

Shorter notice periods for inspections and clearer, more easily accessible reports are also high on the agenda. The new proposals also give a stronger voice to the users of services, which will be more explicitly addressed in reports. Professionals want inspection to draw on provider self-evaluation, reality-tested by inspectors, and they have called for peers to be given a key role in the inspection process in all sectors.

This second phase of the consultation process will provide feedback to Estyn as they finalise these proposals which aim to ensure that learners are at the heart of inspection in Wales.

Estyn's consultation is being launched whilst the Welsh Assembly Government are consulting on a broader policy statement on Inspection, Audit, and Regulation in Wales.

Estyn's new inspection framework is designed to fit coherently with this wider policy, thereby helping to deliver a more joined-up approach across the different sectors of Welsh public services.

Estyn is encouraging the general public and anyone involved in the Welsh education and training system to take part.

The proposals and the questionnaire can be found on the Estyn website www.estyn.gov.uk or, alternatively, hard-copies are available from CRG Research Ltd (consult@crgresearch.co.uk / 029 2034 3218). The consultation period will run for 3 months from 14th January 2009. Responses can be made anonymously and will be treated as confidential.

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For further information please contact:
Communications, Media and Marketing Team
Estyn
communications@estyn.gsi.gov.uk
02920 446464

Notes to Editors

About Estyn

Estyn is the Education and Training Inspectorate for Wales. Our aim is to achieve excellence for all in learning in Wales. We do this by providing an independent, high-quality inspection and advice service.

Our vision is to be recognised through the expertise of our staff as an authoritative voice on learning in Wales.

We are independent from, but funded by the Welsh Assembly Government (under Section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 1998).

For further information please visit our website www.estyn.gov.uk