

From: Enquiries

Sent: 12 January 2026 13:06

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Freedom of Information Request

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing in response to your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to be provided with information on the questions listed in your email dated 20 December 2025.

1 How often do you inspect primary schools in Wales?

2 The number of primary schools in Wales which have not been inspected in accordance with the answer given to question 1.

Under FOIA, Estyn is required to:

- (i) confirm or deny whether it holds the information of the description specified in the request
- (ii) communicate the information requested to the applicant

In response to your queries, I confirm the following responses:

1 How often do you inspect primary schools in Wales?

On our website you will find a document that sets out the legislation regarding the arrangements for inspecting primary schools in Wales. [How We Inspect - 2024 maintained schools and PRUs](#)

Estyn inspects every primary school in Wales at least once within a six year period. The current inspection cycle began in September 2024 and will end of 31 August 2030. In addition to inspection visits, maintained schools and PRUs will have an interim visit in addition to a core inspection within the 6-year inspection period. The purpose of interim visits is to support providers with their self-evaluation and improvement plans, to ensure the best outcomes for learners.

2 The number of primary schools in Wales which have not been inspected in accordance with the answer given to question 1

According to the latest information, there are 1,205 Primary schools in Wales. As of 23 December 2025, we have carried out 276 primary school core inspections, within the current cycle that started 1 September 2024.

We carried out core inspections in 207 primary schools during the last academic year (year 1 of the inspection cycle) and are on track to carry out 209 core inspections of primary schools in the current academic year (year 2 of the inspection cycle).

The previous inspection cycle ran from September 2016 to July 2024, an eight year cycle, and we completed the core inspections of all primary schools during that period.

I hope that this information is helpful to you.

If you are not satisfied with the response Estyn has made regarding your request for information, you are entitled to request that we review the matter. Your request for a review should be addressed to the Feedback and Complaints Manager and received no later than 20 working days after the date of this communication.

If you are still not satisfied, you also have a right to complain to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 745
Fax: 01624 524510
Email: enquiries@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box used to redact a signature.

Pennaeth Llywodraethu / Head of Governance