

Message from Yvette Stanley, Ofsted National Director Regulation and Social Care, 17 July 2020

To children's social care providers and local authorities:

As we move into the summer holiday season I'd like to thank all of you for your hard work over the long months of lockdown and a special thank you again to those of you who hosted our staff. I'm sure we have all learned a lot since March and we will be reflecting with you in the coming weeks and months on which of that learning we would want to nurture and grow for "business as usual". We will also reflect on what has worked which might be useful again should there be a need for further local or wider lockdowns.

As I have said previously our staff will be returning in a phased way over the summer and will be getting their training for the assurance (SCCIF) and focused (ILACS) visits in the autumn.

Over the summer we will continue to update you weekly – in the event of slow news weeks they will be short. But you have said that these mailings are helpful and there may be issues you or we would wish to update on. You are welcome to send in Q and A regarding the autumn visits as well as any ongoing questions about regulations or anything similar. The Department for Education (DfE) are consulting on a much smaller basket of relaxations and we await the outcome of that consultation and any decisions.

Wishing those of you able to take a break a restful one, and my thanks to everyone providing cover and emergency duty over the summer period.

Changes to the adoption and children regulations: coronavirus (COVID-19) – DfE consultation

This week Vicky Ford, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families at the DfE, made a [written statement](#) regarding the Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. She said that the intention was for the overwhelming majority of these regulations to expire as planned on 25 September 2020, but that she is minded to extend a very small number of temporary changes for a further period.

The Government is now seeking views on the proposed changes in a [consultation](#) open until 5 August 2020. The consultation document provides further information, but the amended requirements that they propose extending further are on medical reports for foster carers and adoptive parents, allowing virtual visits where appropriate, and on Ofsted inspection responsibilities.

Our message last week set out our plans for inspecting children's social care providers and local authorities from September 2020. You can find further information at [Ofsted's autumn 2020 plans](#).

Building a country that works for all children post Covid-19 – ADCS discussion paper

We wanted to share this with you as you may find it interesting. This is an Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) [discussion paper](#) 'looking at the impacts of Covid-19 on children and their families, in order to put their lived experiences front and centre in national recovery planning whilst also articulating what is needed to restore and reset the support services they rely on'.

Notifying Ofsted of serious incidents – new online form for registered providers

We previously told you about the new online form for informing Ofsted about serious events or incidents. We ask that registered providers now use this form to send us this information.

The new form and relevant guidance is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tell-ofsted-about-an-incident-childrens-social-care-notification> and is the only form to use. Failure to do so will result in Ofsted not receiving your online notification. The new form is only available at the 'gov.uk' web address.

To check you have made a successful submission, you should have received a confirmation email from Ofsted forms (ofsted.forms@notifications.service.gov.uk), with the heading 'Ofsted received your serious incident report'. If you have not received this email then your form has not been submitted.

Sending independent visitor reports and quality of care reviews to Ofsted

We shared this message with you previously. For the reasons set out below we would like to re-iterate it.

Social care providers are required by regulations to send certain reports to Ofsted when they have been produced. These include independent visitor reports for children's homes under Regulation 44 and quality of care reports for independent fostering agencies under Regulation 35.

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), there are likely to be delays in reviewing incoming post. Therefore, we ask that you send in these reports via email instead of post as this is the most effective way of sending us information at the moment.

Please email them to enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk and include Ofsted's unique reference number (URN) for your service and the date on which any visit occurred.

If you are a children's home and your independent visitor sends the reports to Ofsted, please pass this message to them on our behalf.

I hope this update is helpful to you. If you have any further queries or feedback, please continue to send them to socialcare@ofsted.gov.uk.

Best wishes,

Yvette.