Initial teacher education: thematic monitoring visits - spring update webinar frequently asked questions (FAQs)

March 2025

This FAQ document contains details about the thematic monitoring visits (TMV) that is taking place as a consequence of the delay in the start of the next cycle of initial teacher education inspections.
If you have any specific questions relating to your provision, please email ITE@ofsted.gov.uk.

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Thematic monitoring visits

Will there be any key recommendations made for the four themes as part of the report?

Evidence gathered during the TMVs will be used to reflect good practice and challenges seen across the sector. This will include findings on mentoring.

Will retention and recruitment also be a focus within the visits?

Yes, lead inspectors will hold discussions with providers about approaches to trainee recruitment and retention. They will seek to identify what barriers exist and what are the most successful strategies that providers use to ensure sufficient trainees are recruited and retained.

How many providers can expect to receive a TMV and how is the order of visits decided?

A proportion of the sector will receive a TMV. Providers have been selected to ensure the TMVs cover a range of different provider types and phases. Our selection includes providers new to delivering ITE as well as existing providers.

What gaps are showing from the visits?

Any challenges being faced by the sector will be outlined anonymously in the thematic overview report that will be published in summer 2025.

What changes are likely to cause the biggest challenges/risks for GFE colleges?

We will outline challenges GFE colleges have told us about in the thematic overview report that will be published in summer 2025.

Why are inspectors asking to meet ECTs when the intention of TMVs is to look at new aspects introduced from September 2024?

Although some of the themes are specific to changes from September 2024, this does not apply to all and we are keen to learn from the experiences of ECTs.

What is the underpinning framework for these visits?

It will be separate to the inspection framework and will use themes covered in the original webinar.

How long will the TMVs continue?

We have no plans to continue TMVs after summer 2025.

When will the TMV report be published?

A thematic overview report that covers findings from all the TMVs relating to the specific themes will be published on our website in summer 2025.

How will the findings from the TMVs inform the pilot and final inspection framework?
All of our onsite activities help to inform future inspection practice.

What triggers a TMV?
There are no set triggers for a TMV, providers have been selected to ensure the TMVs cover a range of different provider types and phases.

Other ITE related questions

What are the new expectations around mentor training? Will there be updates to the requirements for lead mentor training?
The expectations for mentor training are outlined by the DfE and can be found in the Initial teacher training (ITT): criteria and supporting advice published document.

How will Ofsted handle inspections across partnerships where lead parnters may have been accredited and be teaching out?
ITE inspections will only consider trainees for who the accredited provider is accountable for.

How will the foci on disadvantage/vulnerability that we are seeing in the school inspection trials influence ITE inspections?
As with other remits there is an evaluation area in the proposed ITE toolkit that covers inclusion.

Will you have a clear definition of Inclusion, as the basis for judging the quality of inclusion?
A focus on inclusion will look at how well providers support trainees and how those trainees learn to support their pupils/learners.

What have been the biggest challenges faced by ITE teams delivering the new DiT?
We will outline challenges faced by providers of the DiT in the thematic overview report that will be published in summer 2025.