12 April 2019

Meg Hillier MP
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee
Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

Dear Meg

In your report, ‘Ofsted’s inspection of schools’, recommendation 5 said:

Ofsted should write to us in April 2019 with an update on the gap between the numbers of HM inspectors employed and budgeted for, and the turnover rate.

Following the end of the 2018-19 financial year, this letter provides the requested information.

In the 2018-19 financial year, we budgeted for 185.8 Her Majesty’s Inspectors (HMI). As at 31 March 2019, we had 158.9 full time HMI. Our turnover rate in 2018-19 has improved, falling from 19.8% in 2017-18 to 11.9% in 2018-19.

As I have discussed with you before, Ofsted regional directors are free to vary the default mix of full time HMI and contracted inspectors as they judge best meets the varying needs of their regions. In some cases, regional directors have therefore intentionally recruited fewer HMI than had been budgeted and have managed their inspection requirements with a higher proportion of contracted inspectors.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Spielman
Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector