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Michael Gove MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Christine Gilbert
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Dear Mr. Gove,

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 317081: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how much on average an Ofsted inspection of (a) a nursery (b) a children's centre (c) a primary school (d) a secondary school and (e) local authority children's services cost in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

In 2008/09 the average cost of an inspection was:

Nursery School:	£5,700
Primary School:	£6,900
Secondary School:	£13,100

We are developing and testing a new inspection framework for children's centres and have undertaken pilot inspections in 2009. The first regular inspections are scheduled for March 2010 and so costs are not yet available.

A new approach to inspecting children's services was introduced in 2009/10. This involved a programme of unannounced inspections of contact, assessment and referral services which comes to the end of its first year in July 2010. Additionally, 2009/10 saw the start of a three year rolling programme of inspections of safeguarding and looked after children. The cost of inspection of children's services in 2009/10 will not be available until September 2010.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Gilbert



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