

The grading scale for all inspection judgements

1. A common grading scale will be used in making judgements for organisational inspections:

- excellent - outstanding and sector leading
- very good - major strengths
- good - important strengths with some areas for improvement
- satisfactory – strengths just outweigh weaknesses
- weak - important weaknesses
- unsatisfactory - major weaknesses

2. Grades will be awarded in the following **three** areas:

Outcomes and Impact

Service Delivery

Leadership and quality culture

3. Grades are inter-related. 'Weak' or 'Unsatisfactory' grades in one or more of the three areas will affect the **overall effectiveness** evaluation.

4. In addition, if two of the three grades are less than 'Good', a full re-inspection will be required. If one of the three grades is less than 'Good', a partial re-inspection will be required.

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the organisation overall?

The judgement on **overall effectiveness** is based on all the available evidence from inspection. Inspectors will take into account judgements on:

retention, attainment and achievement

relevance of provision

learning and teaching

context and planning

assessment

information, guidance and support

leadership for learning and teaching

self-evaluation and quality culture

<i>Illustrative characteristics</i> Effective	An organisation is likely to be deemed effective when all the grades for leadership and quality culture, outcomes and impacts and Service Delivery are good or very good.
Partially effective	An organisation is likely to be deemed partially effective when one of the grades for leadership and quality culture, outcomes and impacts and Service Delivery is less than good.
Not effective	An organisation is likely to be deemed not effective when more than one of the grades for leadership and quality culture, outcomes and impacts and Service Delivery are weak or unsatisfactory.