

Dr Margaret James
National Director of SIAMS

26 January 2022

Dear DDEs and Diocesan SIAMS Leads

Resumption of SIAMS Inspections

This morning, I have made the decision to extend the suspension of SIAMS inspection and, therefore, not to resume at the end of January.

The situation with Covid-related staff absences is still not, in my opinion, sufficiently settled across the country to warrant a resumption. It appears that a large number of schools are still managing difficulties that are of comparable severity to those that were present at the time of the original suspension. This means that the reasons that led to the decision to suspend inspection are still present for a large number of schools, rendering resumption unwise and unfair.

As long as the situation for schools eases, we will resume inspection notifications the week beginning Monday 21 February, with in-school inspection activity recommencing the week beginning Monday 28 February. I appreciate that some schools will be on half-term the week beginning 21 February and that will, of course, be factored into our scheduling.

The delays that we have experienced as a result of Covid since October 2021 mean that it is likely that some of the schools that are on the list for inspection before the end of December 2022 will not be inspected within that timeframe. I will review this with the team over the coming months and we will issue an updated list in due course. For the time-being, all schools on the list should continue to assume that they are likely to be inspected.

Yours sincerely



Dr Margaret James | National Director of SIAMS