

UCU motions on Ofsted, ESTYN and 'Mocksteds'

1. FE9, Mock OFSTEDs and Stress, 2021-2022

Conference notes:

1. the adverse impact the pandemic has had on educational staff and students
2. a failure in many leaders in FE to put in suitable and sufficient control measures to protect staff and students from undue stress, anxiety and a poor mental health
3. FE leaders are carrying out 'Mocksted' observations which are causing undue stress, anxiety, illness and a decline in mental health as well as an increase in absences

Conference resolves:

- a. to advise, support and give guidance to branches under scrutiny by 'Mocksted'
- b. to look at the hazards of Mocksteds from a health and safety perspective focussing on mental health and stress
- c. to lobby Ofsted naming FE Branches who do not take the impact of Mocksteds on mental health into account
- d. to go public with the impact of Mocksteds on mental health as well as the financial implications

2. FE17, Ofsted, 2013-2014

Conference notes its opposition to the Ofsted/ESTYN inspection system recognising the detrimental effect it has on education and lecturers lives.

Conference further notes Ofsted/ESTYN has created a culture of fear and loathing within our colleges and no longer carries any respect within the profession.

We believe that apart from the obvious impact it has on the workload, stress and health of lecturers, the inspections are not conducive to providing a good quality balanced education for students.

Conference resolves to:

1. campaign for non-cooperation with Ofsted/ESTYN inspection arrangements
2. ballot members to support a boycott of Ofsted/ESTYN and all consultative inspections around the Ofsted/ESTYN framework
3. campaign for the abolition of Ofsted/ESTYN
4. campaign for a bottom-up college based self evaluation framework to replace Ofsted/ESTYN with a system more appropriate for FE
5. publicise the public money being spent on consultants and mock inspections for the 'Ofsted readiness' industry.