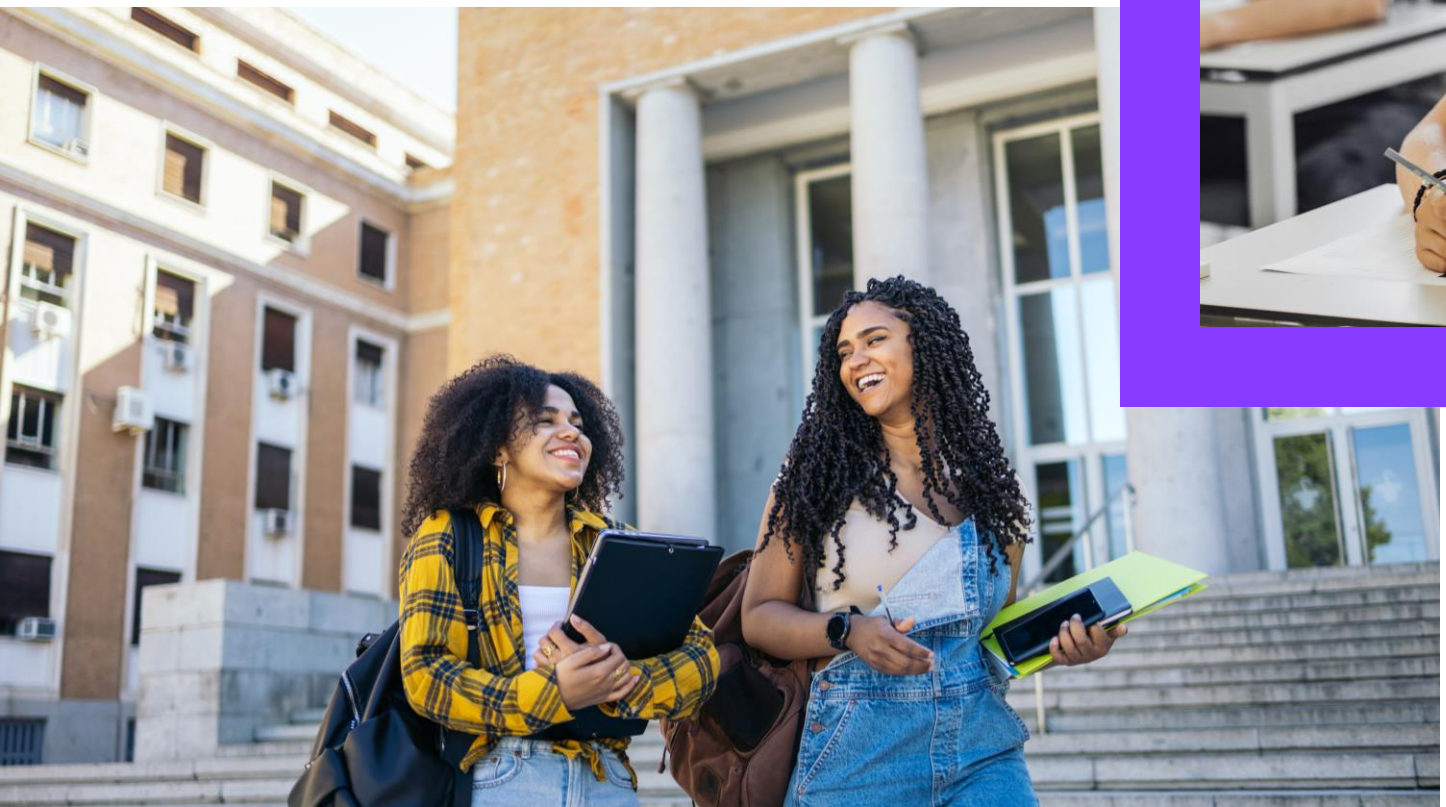
An update from Accreditation UK

English UK Southwest + Wales

November 2026





BRITISH COUNCIL

www.britishcouncil.org/accreditation

What we'll look at today

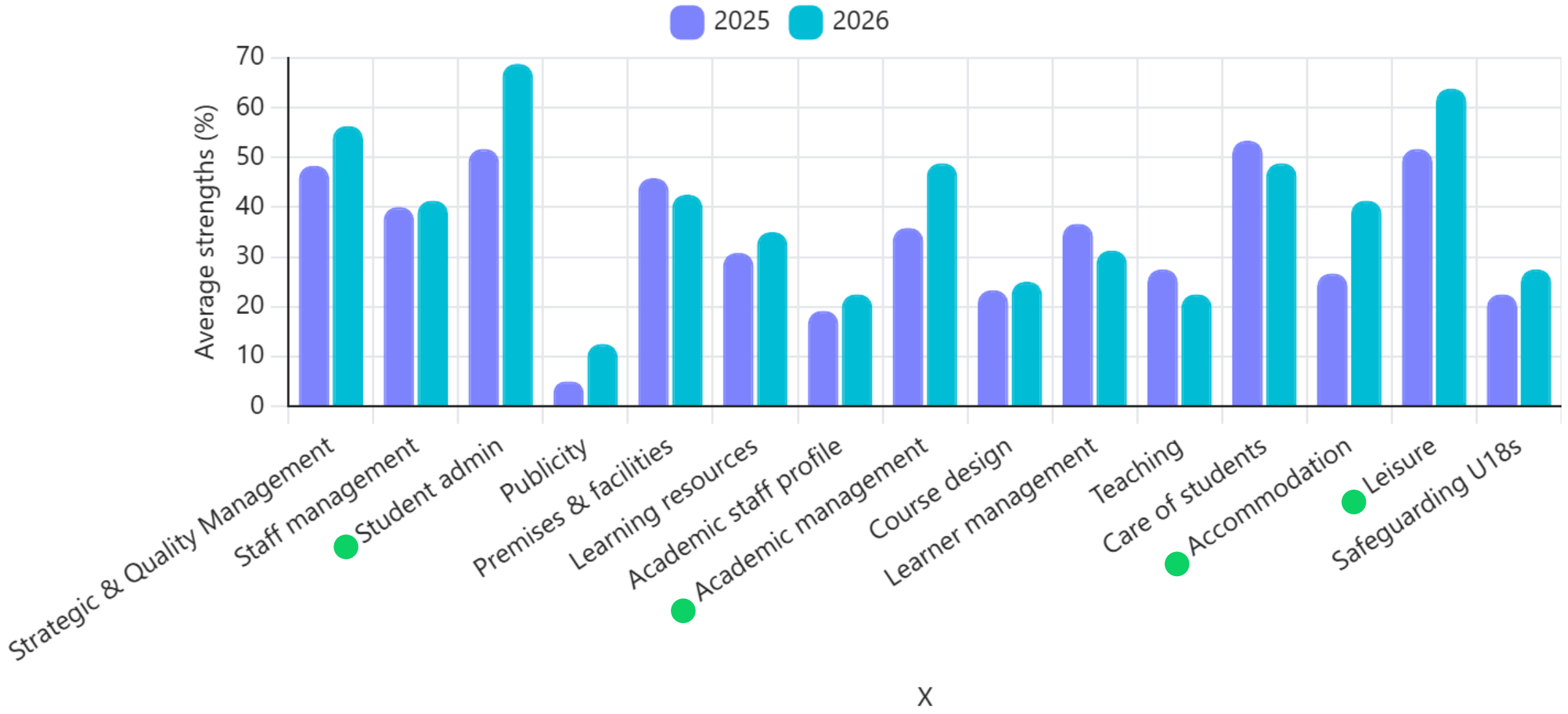
- Inspection outcomes so far in 2026
- What the data tells us
- How to avoid the common pitfalls
- Accreditation UK CRG – the next edition
- Feedback from providers



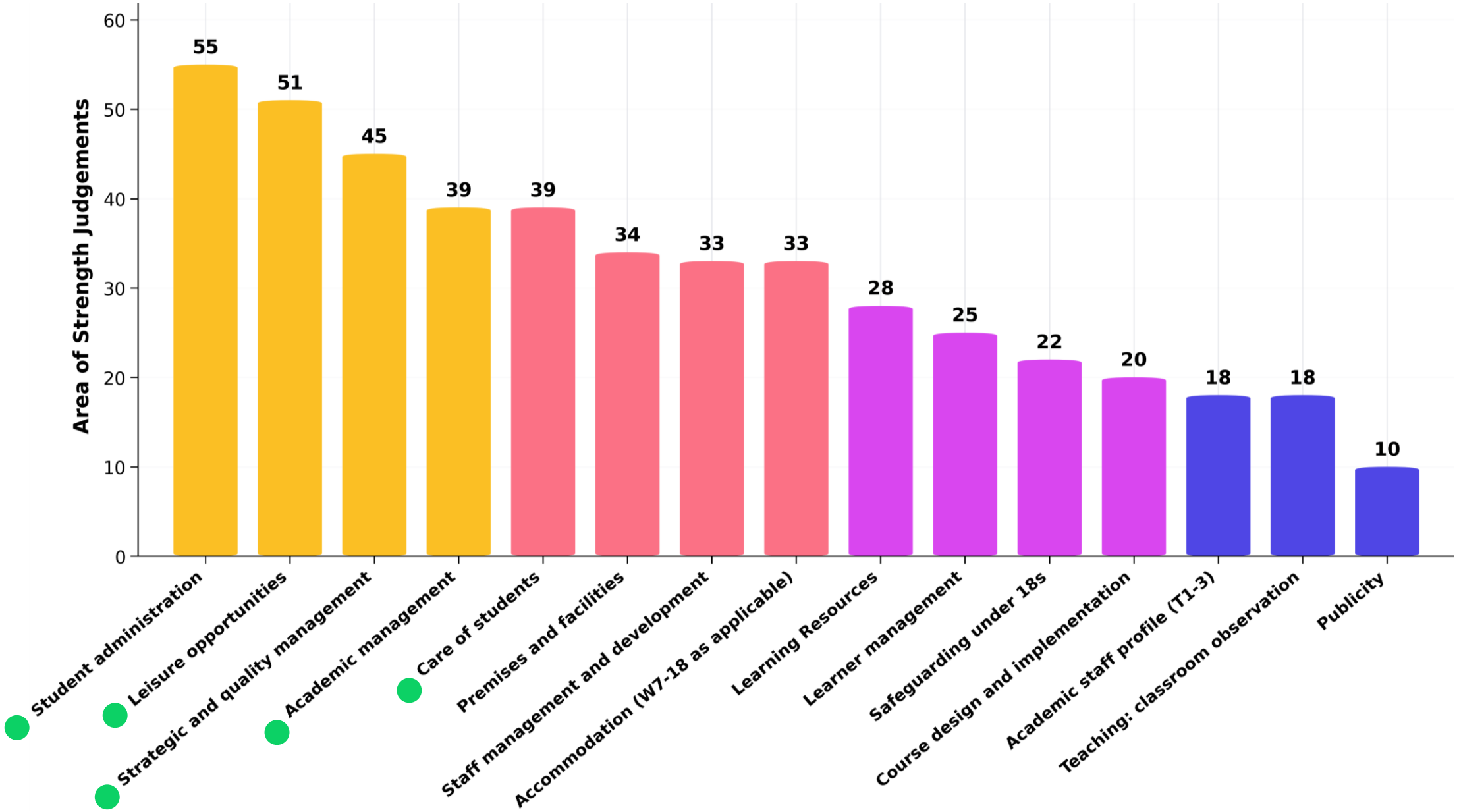
2026



Comparing data 2025 V 2026 – strengths in subsections

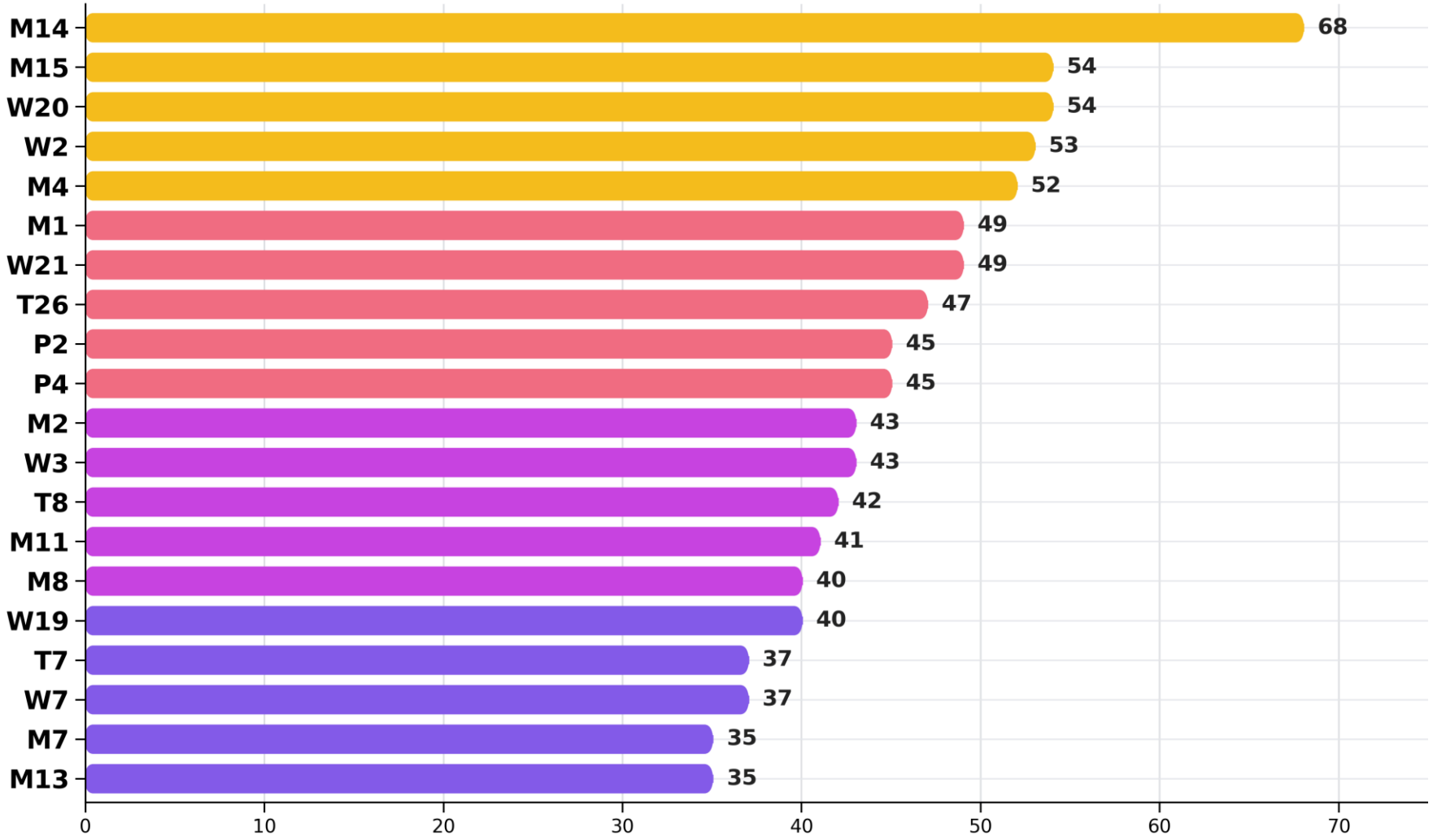


Subsections strengths 2026

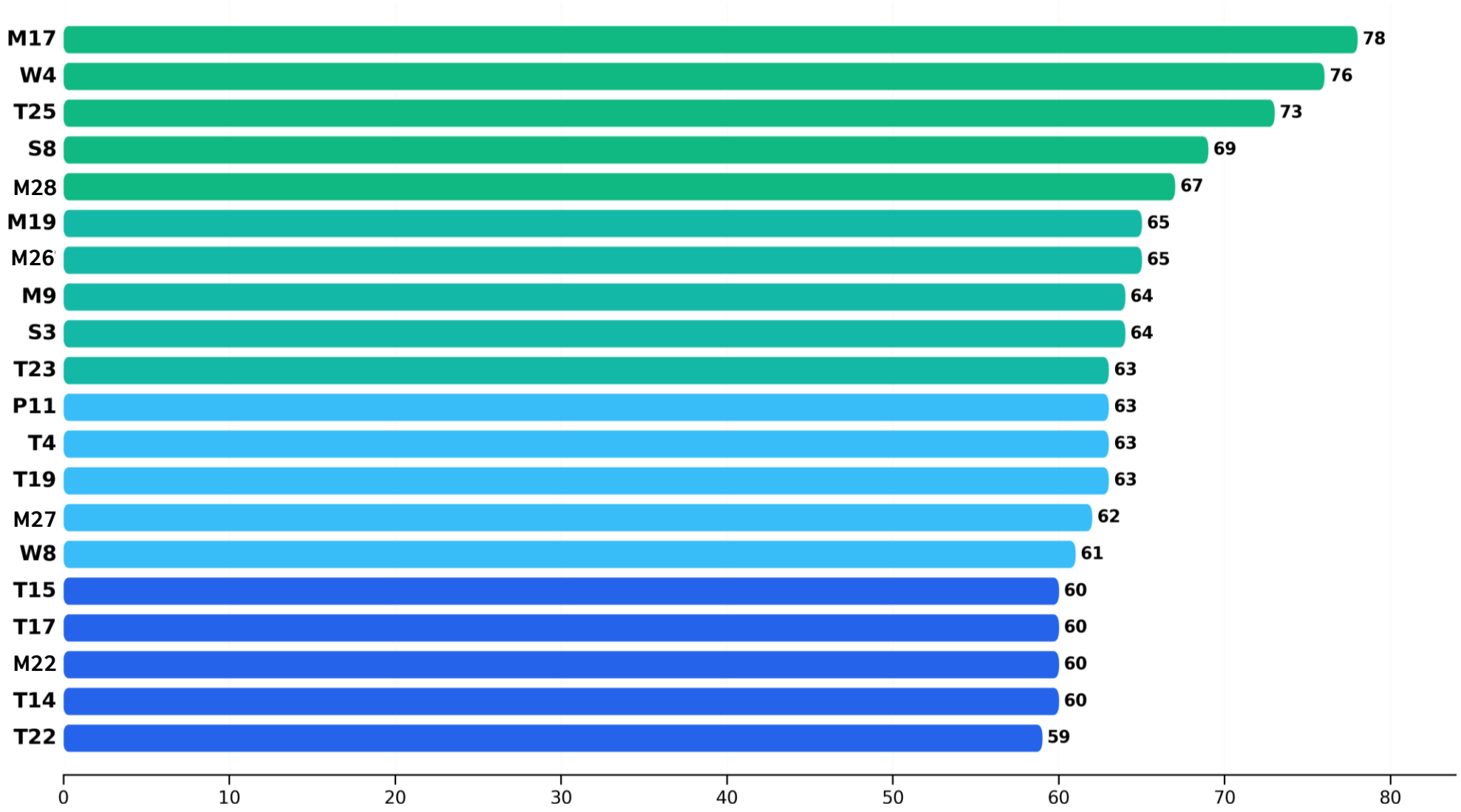


Criteria with the highest number of strengths 2026

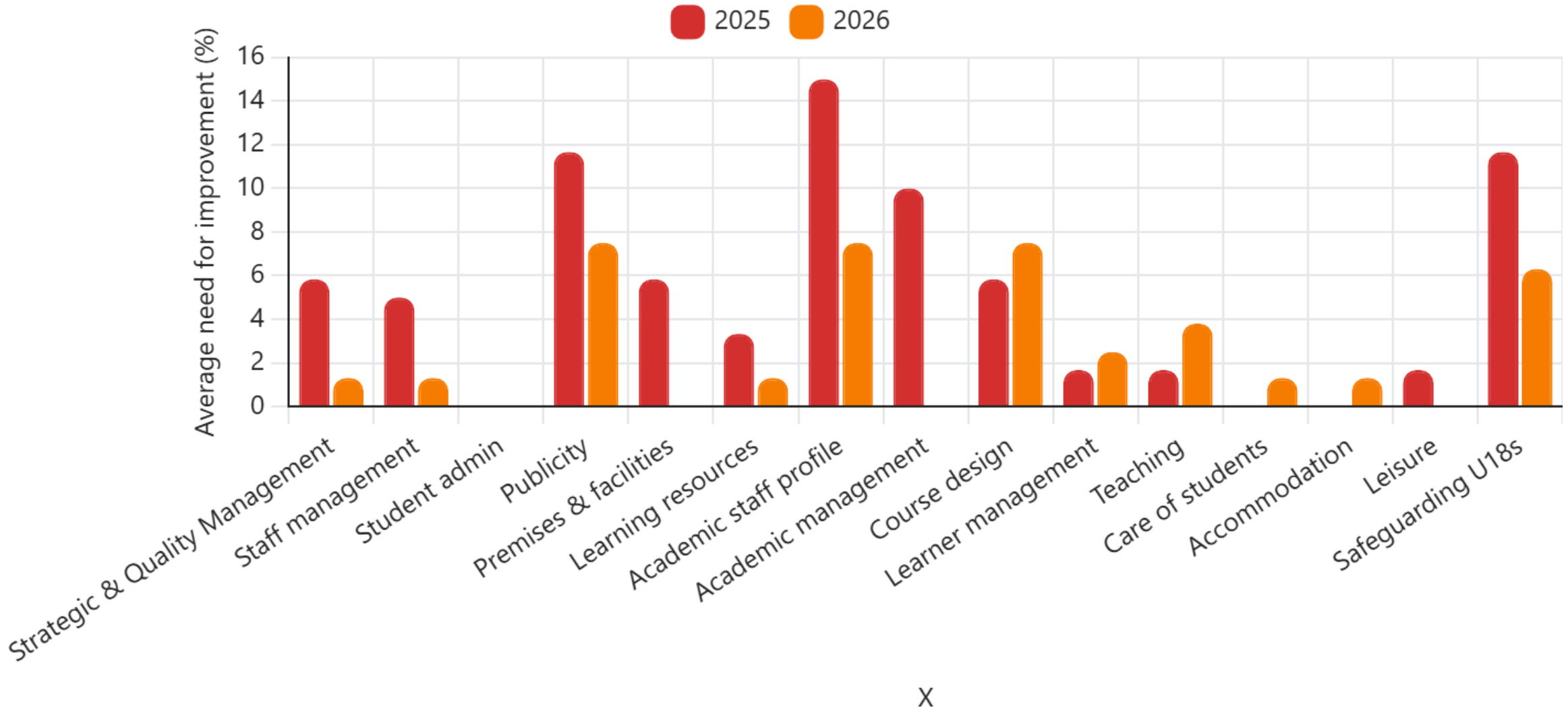
Out of 80 inspections



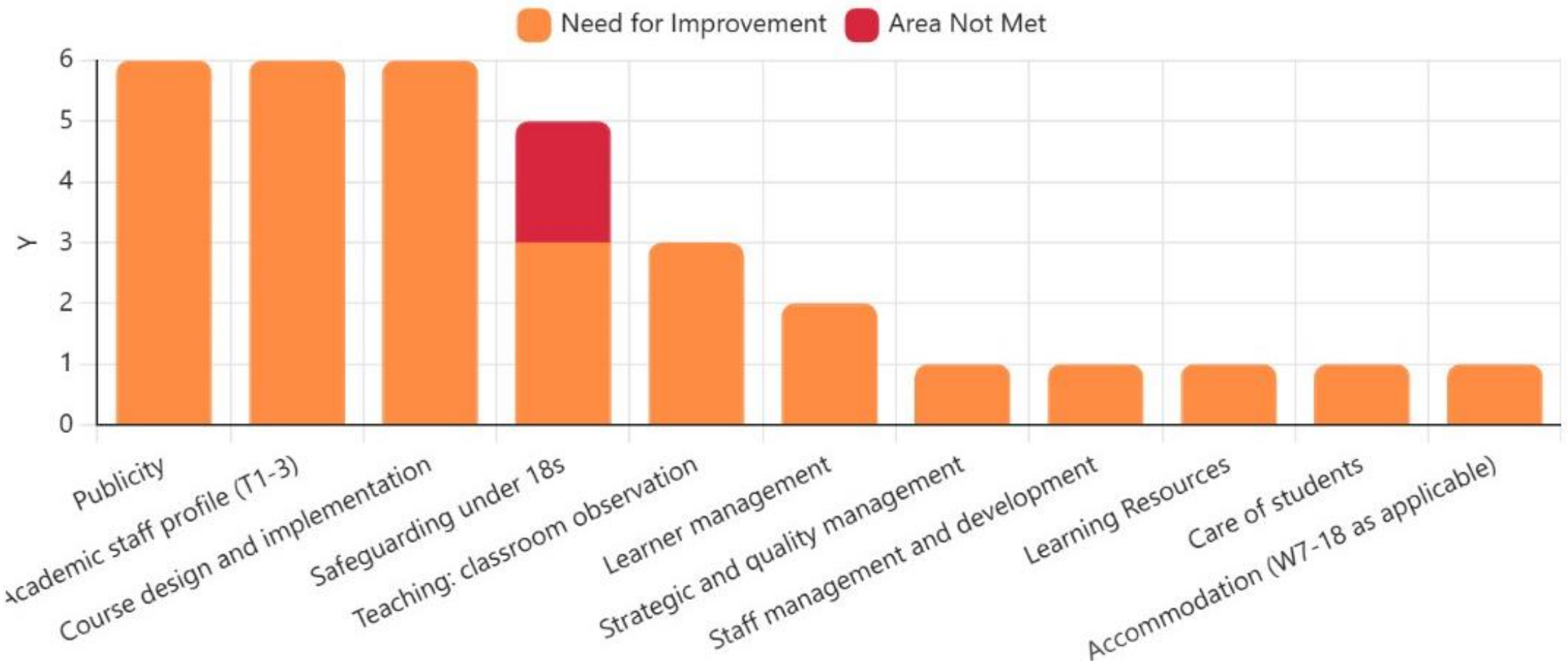
Criteria with the highest number of mets 2026



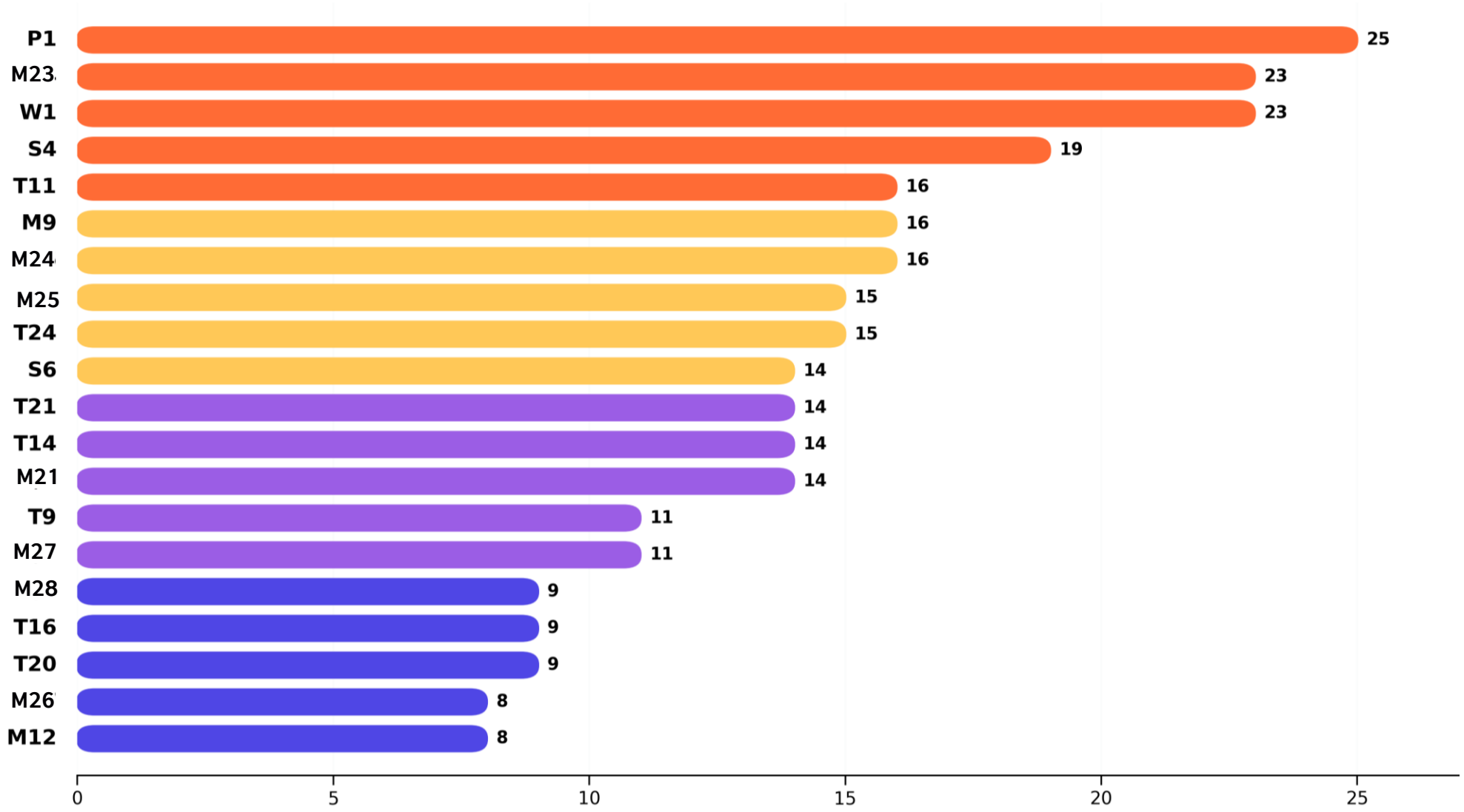
Comparing data 2025 V 2026 –NFIs in subsections



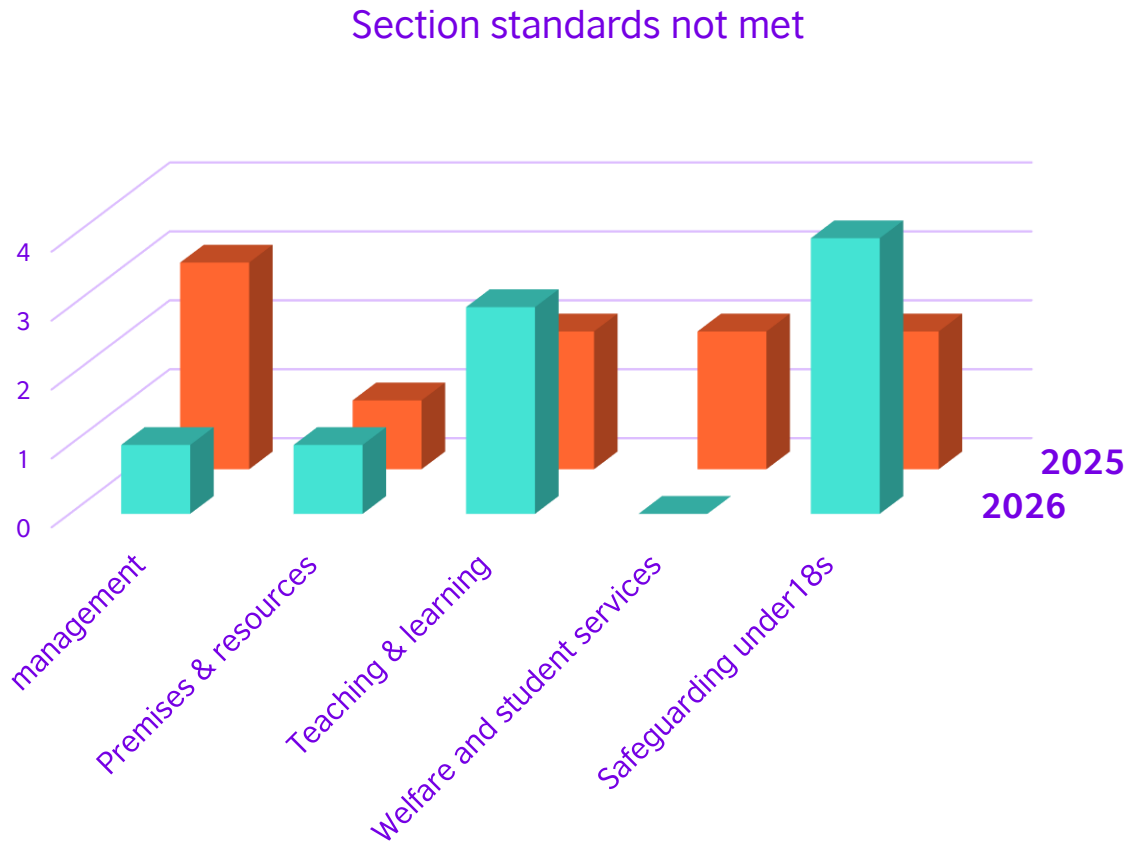
Subsections with the highest number of need for improvement 2026



Criteria with the highest number of not-mets 2026



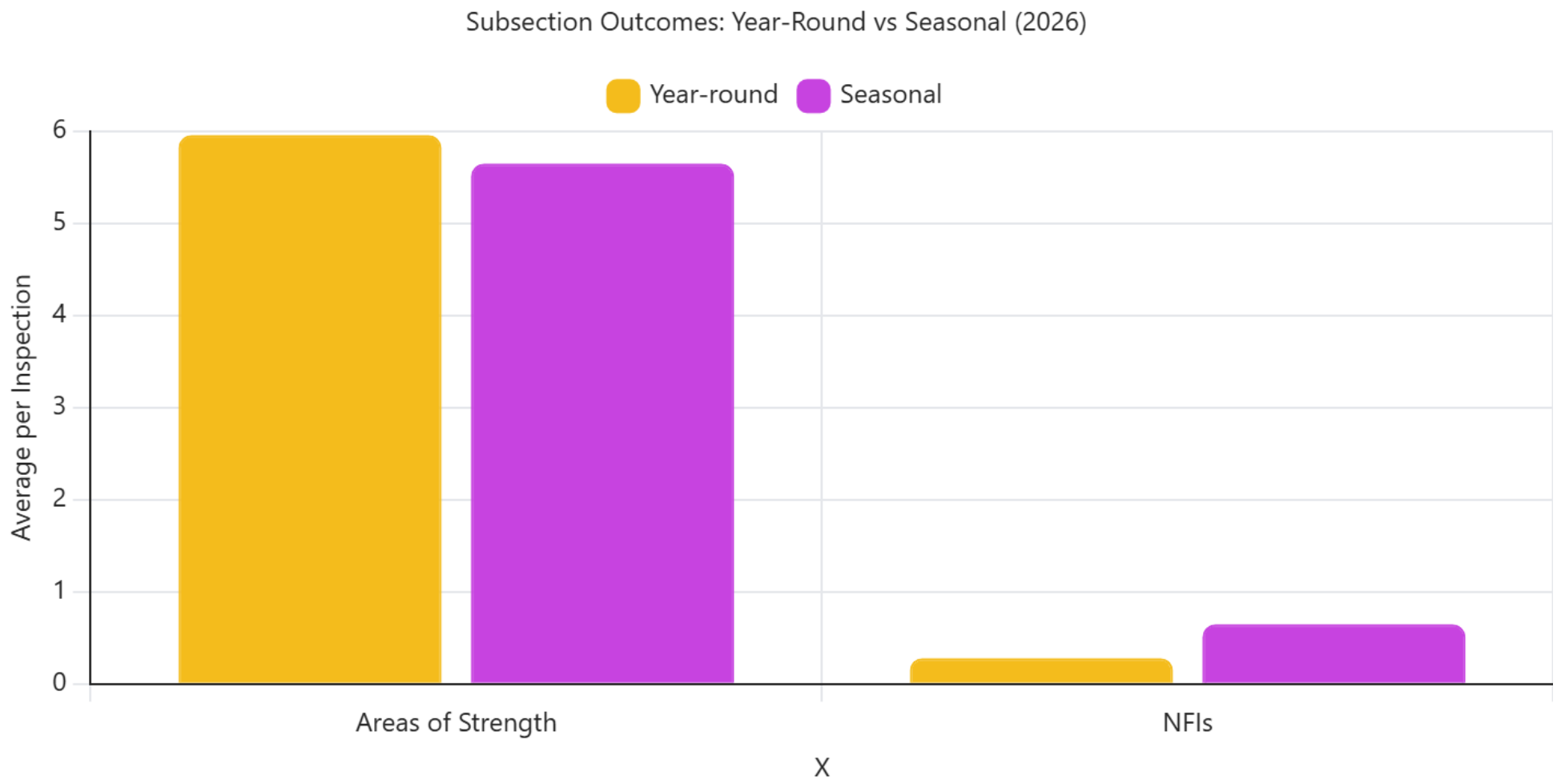
Overall section standards not met 2025 v 2026



2025 – a total of 10 section standards not met

2026 – a total of 9 section standards not met

YR versus Seasonal 2026



Common points of weakness

- P1 - Providers ensure the safety and security of students on their premises by measures appropriate to their age and background, and the location.
- M23 - Publicity gives clear, accurate and easy-to-find information on the courses.
- W1- There is a comprehensive plan to respond to any emergency. This plan is known to all staff, and relevant elements are known to students.
- S4 - Recruitment procedures for all roles involving responsibility for or substantial access to under 18s are in line with safer recruitment good practice and the organisation's safeguarding policy.

Addressing common points of failure P1

P1 Premises safety

Requirement: Providers ensure the safety and security of students on their premises by measures appropriate to their age and background, and the location.

Common reasons for a not met

- Risk assessments are generic, out of date or copied from a host institution.
- Summer school premises have not been separately assessed.
- Actions identified in risk assessments have not been implemented or recorded.
- Fire, gas and electrical records are incomplete.
- Fire drills are irregular or undocumented

Addressing common points of failure P1

Advice to centres

Create site-specific risk assessments

Maintain a risk action log showing: identified risk mitigation action responsible person completion date

Nominate a senior manager with explicit responsibility for health and safety in their job description

Maintain a compliance file

Conduct and record evacuation drills

Steps to success P1

P1 - Inspector-proof evidence

- Current risk assessments for all sites.
- Fire drill log.
- Records of routine checks of gas/fire/electricity appliances.
- Evidence of completed actions from risk assessments.

Achieving a strength - Examples of good practice

- Evidence of expert input into the framing of H&S policy and practices.
- High levels of training provided, e.g. for fire marshals.
- Different forms of training and information ensure evacuation procedures for all areas are fully understood by staff and students.
- Appropriate information provided for visitors.

Addressing common points of failure M23

M23 Course information in publicity

Requirement: Publicity gives clear, accurate and easy-to-find information on the courses.

Common reasons for a not met

- Course pages do not include all required information
- information is spread across several webpages and difficult to locate.

Addressing common points of failure M23

Advice to schools

- Create a standard course information template for every course page showing:

- course description
- objectives
- language level
- class times
- private study hours (if applicable)
- total taught hours per week
- course dates
- non-teaching days
- minimum age
- maximum age (for under-18 programmes)
- maximum class size.

Achieving a strength - Examples of good practice

- Information on course content is: clear; detailed; consistently presented across courses for comparison.
- Information is provided regarding length of study in relation to aims, progression routes and combinations.

Addressing common points of failure W1

W1 Emergency plans

Requirement: : There is a comprehensive plan to respond to any emergency. This plan is known to all staff, and relevant elements are known to students.

Common reasons for a not met

- Emergency plans focus only on fire.
- No procedures for major incidents off-site.
- Staff know the emergency plan, but students do not.
- Roles of agents, hosts, group leaders and accommodation providers are unclear.
- No communication strategy for contacting students during incidents

Addressing common points of failure W1

Advice to schools:

Develop a comprehensive Critical Incident Plan covering:

- terrorism
- serious crime
- missing student
- serious injury
- transport disruption
- accommodation emergencies
- natural disasters
- major local incidents.

Remember to cover incidents both on and off site.



Addressing common points of failure W1

Issue	Required detail
Incident lead	Named staff member
Communication	How students are contacted
Student accountability	How whereabouts are checked
Parents/agents	Notification procedure
Media enquiries	Designated spokesperson
Emergency contacts	Updated contact list

Aim for a strength -

- Sensitive briefing for students on keeping safe and procedures to follow in the event of an emergency.
- Briefings or training for group leaders to ensure they are aware of emergency plans on the premises and on excursions.
- Summary of emergency plan added to risk assessments for leisure programme.
- Evidence of expert input into the framing plans and procedures.
- run an **annual tabletop exercise** with **managers** and record outcomes.

Addressing common points of failure S4

S4 Safer recruitment

Requirement: Recruitment procedures for all roles involving responsibility for or substantial access to under 18s are in line with safer recruitment good practice and the organisation's safeguarding policy.

Common reasons for a not met

- References do not ask about suitability to work with under-18s.
- Missing second references.
- DBS/PVG checks expired.
- No evidence of host suitability checks.
- Agency arrangements are undocumented.
- Overseas police checks missing.

Addressing common points of failure S4

Advice to schools:

Create a single Central Safeguarding Register

Record:

- staff ID reference (Initials/number)
- role
- start date
- references received
- DBS/PVG date
- update service status
- overseas police checks (if applicable)
- training dates
- host checks. (including references, DBS and SG training)



Use of Group Leaders in regulated activity

Inspector comments in 2026:

Increased use of group leaders in regulated activity with students outside of their group. Note: all group leaders employed in such regulated activity must undergo the same checks as a member of staff **before** any regulated activity takes place.

Anyone working in regulated activity must have been Barred list checked and, staff coming from overseas must have a UK police check (DBS/PVG etc depending on nation) regardless of whether they have every lived in the UK or not.

They would also need right to work, ID checks, qualification checks (if relevant), overseas police check as well as references.

On **1 September 2026** the government removed the exemption for a DBS requirement for those operating under supervision in regulated activity if supervised by a regulated adult (e.g. class teacher)

Addressing common points of failure S4

Requirements

Homestays

- two references

  (these can be personal references)
- Enhanced DBS check for all resident adults

Overseas recruits:

- UK police check (DBS/PVG) regardless of whether they have ever lived in the UK
- right to work
- Sight of overseas police check
- references

Group leaders **taking part in regulated activity:**

- UK police check (DBS/PVG) regardless of whether they have ever lived in the UK
- right to work
- Sight of overseas police check
- references

CRG 2028



Key focus:

- New format for CRG and inspection report
- AI policy as a requirement
- Inclusion of digital security
- Safeguarding to be revised to include safeguarding for vulnerable adults.
- Apply KCSIE 2026 recommendations where appropriate

Your feedback



Mentimeter questions

- How do you rate the layout of the CRG?

  Easy to Navigate / Generally OK but could do better / Difficult to find information

- What do you think of the inspection report template?

  Attractive and easy to read / Does what it needs to but could be improved / Difficult to navigate

- Inspection reports are read mostly by.....Students / Agents / Language centres?
- How do you typically view inspection reports? Computer / Phone / Printed copy?
- Do you think a visual report summary would be useful?
- Are there any areas of the CRG or a particular criterion that you struggle to understand the requirements of or struggle to meet?
- Are there any new areas that could be included in the CRG?

Thank you

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