



National
Guidance
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Frequently Asked Questions – Should I Ask to See a Provider’s Risk Assessments?

Should Visit Leaders obtain copies of risk assessments from providers and facilities?

The short answer to this question is almost certainly NO.

Visit Leaders do have a duty of care to ensure that any provider they use meets acceptable standards. For advice on how to do this, see OEAP National Guidance document [4.4g “Selecting External Providers and Facilities”](#).

Even if a provider does not hold external accreditation, such as a Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge, their risk assessment records are unlikely to be of use to a Visit Leader. Risk assessments that are written for the provider’s own purposes will often mean little to others, unless they are qualified to understand, assess and, if necessary, challenge them.

The Visit Leader does need information from the provider about the venue, facilities and activities that will be helpful to the Visit Leadership Team in planning how they will supervise their group. For example:

- Who is responsible for what aspects of supervision and when?
- Are there any hazards or threats that need to be considered in visit planning and supervision?
- Does the provider have any rules or conditions that they expect the leaders or participants to follow?
- What options are available if the conditions or circumstances on the day don’t allow for the planned activities or programme?

Practical information (e.g., a site plan, photographs, local advice) obtained from the provider, together with the knowledge and experience from a preliminary visit, are likely to be the most helpful to Visit Leaders’ decision making and planning.

See OEAP National Guidance document [4.4h “Using External Providers”](#).

