Education & Skills Funding Agency

Qualification achievement rates: changes for 2016 to 2017

Date of issue   September 2017

Audience   Of interest to colleges and training organisations

Purpose

1. This document outlines the changes for qualification achievement rates (QAR) for the 2016 to 2017 funding year (1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017). It describes at a high level the changes to the technical specification compared to the 2015 to 2016 technical specification.

2. We will update the core QAR methodology to incorporate the changes below in September 2017. This document should be read along with the business rules document published in November 2016.

Main changes from the 2015 to 2016 technical specification

3. We will continue to exclude non-formula funded community learning provision (Funding model 10 'Community Learning').

4. We will exclude all Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) learning aims (identified by Learning Delivery Monitoring code 34) from the 2016 to 2017 calculations; the responsibility of these learning aims transferred to the Ministry of Justice in 2016 to 2017.

5. We will include Apprenticeship standards in the 2016 to 2017 calculations.

6. We will exclude all apprenticeship starts from 1 May 2017 under the new funding model (Funding model 36 'Apprenticeships (from 1 May 2017)') from the 2016 to 2017 calculations; these will be included in 2017 to 2018 calculations.

7. We will include the reformed AS levels that are decoupled from the A level. We will also include any legacy AS levels that were cashed. The calculations will include both the reformed AS levels and legacy AS levels, depending on which methodology was relevant when the learning aim started. For more information on reformed AS levels, please refer to this [link](#).

8. We will exclude apprenticeship seasonal worker pilot learning aims, identified using Learning Delivery Monitoring code 348.

9. We will include the new GCSE grading structure (1 - 9 rather than A* - H) in the 2016 to 2017 calculations. The calculations will use both the old A* - H grades and the new 1-9 grades, depending on which grades were relevant when the learning aims started.