



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

BIS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Average funding per course in
BIS-funded adult further
education

MAY 2013

Average funding per course in BIS-funded adult further education

Why is this indicator important?

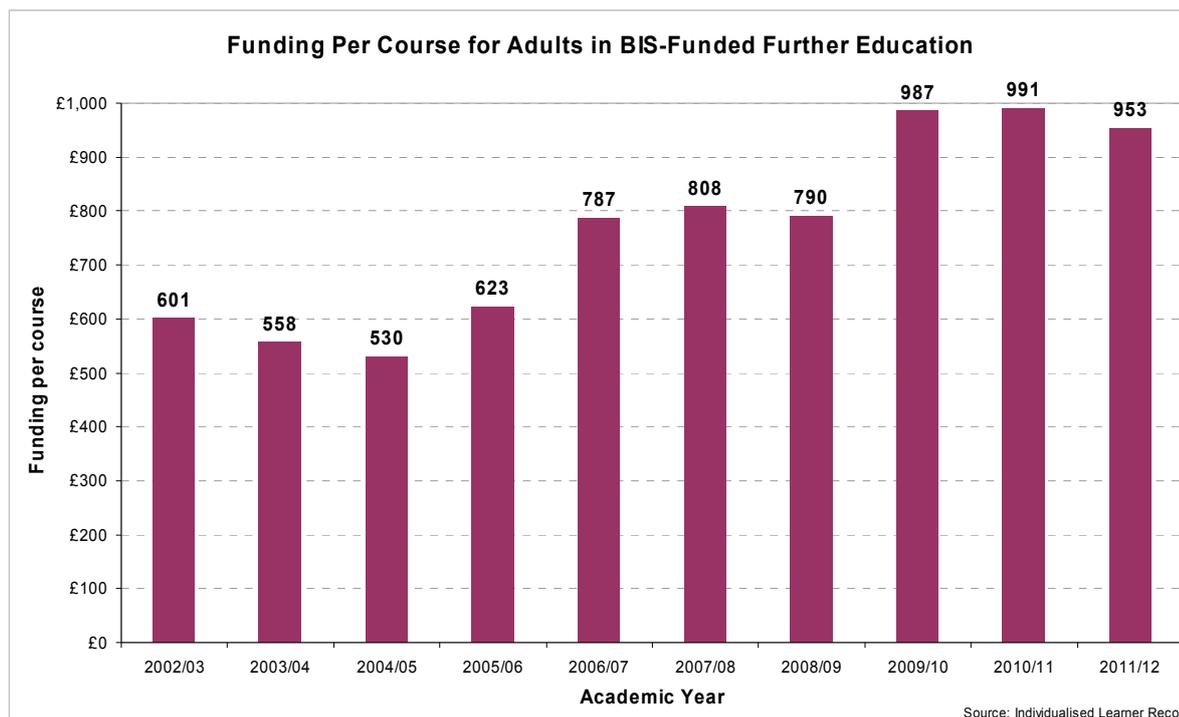
Over the period of this Spending Review, up to 2014-15, the Further Education resource budget will be reduced by 25%. Dealing with this reduction will be a challenge and individuals, training organisations and colleges will have to adapt to change. Nevertheless, this challenge has stimulated fresh thinking about priorities and how we finance them.

Savings will be made by making the Further Education system more efficient. This will include: policy changes; unit cost reductions; reforming the statutory entitlements to fully subsidised training; rebalancing the investment from public spending towards greater contributions from individuals and employers who benefit most and can afford to pay. This indicator will assist in providing an assessment of whether these efficiencies are being delivered.

How are we performing?

The estimated unit cost in 2011/12 was £953 per learning aim, down from £991 in the 2010/11 academic year.

The average funding per learning aim in the past three years has been a marked increase from £790 in the 2008/09 academic year. The difference was due to an increase in overall funding, up from £4.617 billion in 2008-09 to £5.143 billion in 2009-10, combined with a reduction in total aims from 5,842,900 to 5,209,200.



What will influence this indicator?

Changes in the indicator will depend on the type and mix of provision. For example we may see an increasing average funding per course as learners may be attending longer, more costly courses which better reflect the demand for skills in certain sectors. It should not be assumed that an increase in average funding per aim in itself is a poor outcome.

In order to obtain a clearer picture, a breakdown of participation by level of learning is provided in the indicator relating to the number of government-funded learners participating in Further Education.

What is BIS's role?

BIS provides funding, through the Skills Funding Agency and the National Apprenticeship Service, for learners in further education and sets the policy framework for the further education system.

Indicator definition

The average funding per learning aim for all learning aims funded by BIS undertaken by adults (aged 19 or over) in the adult further education system, taken across the full range of government-funded provision within the sector, within an academic year.

A learning aim is a single course or qualification. This is different from the number of learners in further education as an individual could study more than one learning aim within an academic year.

A learner's age is calculated as at 31st August in the relevant academic year: for example, for the 2011/12 academic year, age is calculated as at the 31st August 2011.

The total BIS expenditure on adult participation in a given financial year as measured through BIS finance systems divided by the total number of BIS-funded learning aims being studied in a given academic year.

Further information

Information on learning aims is published in the supplementary tables that accompany the

[Post-16 Further Education & Skills Statistical First Release](#)¹.

Skills Funding Agency [Annual Report and Accounts 2011-12](#)²

Related indicators

[Number of government-funded learners participating in Further Education](#)³

[International comparison of the qualification levels of the working age population in the UK](#)⁴

[Total achievements in full Level 2 or 3 Further Education of people academic age 19 years and over](#)⁵

Status

Last updated: May 2013

Due for update on: May 2014

¹http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/

²http://readingroom.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/sfa/sfa_annual_report_2011-12.pdf

³<http://www.bis.gov.uk/about/performance-reports/performance-indicators/government-funded-learners-in-further-education>

⁴<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121205150610/http://www.bis.gov.uk/about/performance-reports/performance-indicators/international-comparison-qualification-levels-of-working-age-population>

⁵ <http://www.bis.gov.uk/about/performance-reports/performance-indicators/achievements-in-full-level-2-or-3-further-education-of-people-age-19-and-over>

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