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Education & Skills  
Funding Agency



Skills Funding  
Agency

Updated 30 June 2017

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## Funding rules monitoring 2016 to 2017

### For Action

To support the implementation of the new apprenticeship funding system, we have updated the following documents:

- [funding rules monitoring plan for the funding year 2016 to 2017](#)

- [funding monitoring reports user guide](#)

We have included data for apprenticeships starting on or after 1 May in a number of the existing monitoring reports already available on [the Hub](#). These reports were released to the sector on 21 June along with the new documents above. We are also scheduled to release 4 new reports for the 2016 to 2017 funding year that will support providers delivering apprenticeships.

The updated monitoring plan indicates which reports now include apprenticeship starts from 1 May, and which are scheduled for release over the coming months. The user guide has been updated to reflect these changes where the implications of any non-compliance are different in the new apprenticeship funding system or where the analysis in that area has now been updated.

We have also provided further guidance on how you need to use the reports and the guidance published alongside them. Please refer to the specific [funding rules](#) and [Individualised Learner Record \(ILR\) guidance](#) relating to each report as, in some cases, it is explicit about what you must do, including any processes you must follow, to ensure eligibility for funding. Where there is an explicit statement of the action you must take, either within the funding rules, ILR guidance or the reports guidance document, you must comply with this. Failure to do so may result in a funding recovery or additional assurance activities being undertaken to determine the eligibility of the funding claim.

If you have been contacted by us and are advised to correct data, or we have published technical guidance through channels such as Update or Inform, you must ensure this is correct by the close of the R14 ILR data return. If you have data errors following the closure of the R14 ILR return, we may:

- recover funding where we are confident the claim has been made in error;
- conduct assurance visits for specific issues before the end-of-year reconciliation statements are issued; and/or use these issues to inform our process for selecting providers for audit in future funding years.

## **Data collection in Further Education (FE) – Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support included in Individualised Learner Record (ILR)**

### **For Action**

In 2015 to 2016 The Department for Education added a new Funding and Monitoring Code to the ILR; this collects data about learners identified as requiring SEN support to give a more accurate picture of the numbers of students with SEN in the FE and skills sector, this is currently being collected in schools.

The 2015 to 2016 ILR data highlighted very low numbers receiving SEN support. We do not think this is an accurate reflection of numbers and it probably highlights the fact that the data collection is in its first year. We would encourage you to ensure the numbers of students receiving SEN support are accurately recorded; i.e. students who receive additional support for their special educational needs, but who do not have an EHC plan.

A college must use its best endeavours to put in place support for students, without an EHC plan, but who have a learning difficulty or disability that requires special educational provision. Chapter Seven of the [SEND Code of Practice](#) has more information on SEN support in college, including the 4 stages of a graduated response, record keeping and funding.

## National achievement rates tables (NART) 2015 to 2016

### Information

The national achievement rates tables (NART), including related annexes, were published on 15 June following the end of an extended pre-election period this year.

The information is available in the [Statistical First Release](#) (SFR)

The national achievement rates headline data published in the [SFR](#) earlier this year was also updated on 15 June.

If you have any queries, please contact the [service desk](#).

## Qualification achievement rates (QAR) 2015 to 2016 – final data

### Information

National achievement rate tables were published on 15 June. The national achievement rates headline data published earlier this year in the SFR were also updated on this date.

All provider QAR dashboards and data files were updated on the hub at the same time. A small proportion of providers will see a minor increase to their QAR. This is due to the inclusion of learners who started on an agreed break in learning prior to August 2013, that later achieved. There is no impact on any provider with regard to minimum standards application.

Please refer to the [Apprenticeship and Education & Training dataset production specification](#) documents that were updated on 15 June.

If you have any queries, please contact the [service desk](#).

## Hub returns

### For information

In R10 we processed files 4,378 from 1,204 providers, more than 1000 of these files were submitted on the last day of the collection period and over 350 providers submitted their first R10 file in the last 3 days of the collection window.

## Individualised learner record (ILR): R11

For information

The ILR R11 data collection for the 2016 to 2017 funding year is now open and will close at 6pm on Thursday, 6 July. As always we recommend that you submit your data as early as possible.

If you need to submit an Earnings Adjustment Statement (EAS) and you do not have access to this on the Data Returns tab in the Hub, please email our Service Desk or call us on 0370 267 0001 to request this.

## Hub Documents

### For information

A new version of the Data Returns Overview has been published on [GOV.UK](#), this includes:

- details of the recent changes to the Hub
- guidance on how to submit your data (including ILR, EAS and ESF supplementary data)
- a list of the reports available after each submission

The FIS and Data Returns known issues document is published on [GOV.UK](#), this document is updated for each return to include new issues and provide updates on resolved issues. It also includes a separate list of validation rules that are not working as expected.

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