



[Home](#) > [ESFA: Inform](#)



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Contents

[Procured Adult Education Budget \(AEB\)](#)

[New qualification achievement rates \(QAR\) and minimum standards landing page on GOV.UK](#)

[Individualised learner record \(ILR\): R03](#)

[Withdrawal of frameworks by Issuing Authority](#)

[Withdrawal of frameworks - guidance for Issuing Authorities](#)

[Individualised learner record \(ILR\): R04](#)

[2016 to 2017 Final Reconciliation Statements](#)

[Improvements to the apprenticeship service - Amending apprentice records](#)

[Improvements to the apprenticeship service - New task list feature](#)

[Improvements to the apprenticeship service - Finding end-point assessment organisations](#)

[Merger guidance](#)

[Qualification achievement rates \(QAR\) 2016 to 2017 – provisional data window](#)

Procured Adult Education Budget (AEB)

For Action

The procured AEB contracts have now been issued.

To distinguish between allocated AEB in the run down contracts or grant agreements, providers must use [LDM code 357](#) for the procured AEB activity that starts from 1 November 2017.

New qualification achievement rates (QAR) and minimum standards landing page on GOV.UK

For Action

We have launched a new [landing page](#) on GOV.UK which combines all key publications for QARs and Minimum Standards into one place, including:

- business rules
- technical specifications
- minimum standards threshold guidance
- links to the national achievement rate tables (NARTS)
- links to the 16-18 performance tables
- guidance for accessing your QAR data once it is available.

We will use this page for any key communications during the annual cycle.

If you have any feedback or questions regarding the landing page, please contact the [Service Desk](#).

Individualised learner record (ILR): R03

For Information

In R03 we processed 4,653 files from 1,147 providers. Over 475 providers submitted their first file in the last 3 days of the collection window with almost 1100 ILR files submitted on the last day, over 23% of the total files submitted during the entire collection window.

Withdrawal of frameworks by Issuing Authority

For Information

The Issuing Authority, National Skills Academy for Food and Drink, [have announced](#) that they are withdrawing several pathways from the Food and Drink apprenticeship Level 2 and 3.

These pathways will be closed to new starts from 30 April 2018.

These framework pathways are being replaced with the following standards:

[Level 2 Butcher](#)

[Level 2 Food and Drink Process Operator](#)

[Level 2 Fishmonger](#)

[Level 2 Senior Chef Production Cooking](#)

[Level 2 Baker](#)

[Level 3 Advanced Butcher](#)

[Level 3 Food and Drink Advanced Process Operator](#)

[Level 3 Food Technologist](#)

[Level 3 Advanced Baker](#)

[Level 3 Continuous improvement technician](#)

The following pathways will continue to be available:

- Level 2 Brewing
- Level 3 Fish and Shellfish

Any apprentices starting on the Food and Drink framework before the withdrawal date will be able to continue until completion and successful apprentices will then be able to claim their certificate using the current system

Withdrawal of frameworks - guidance for Issuing Authorities

For Information

We are currently phasing the [withdrawal of apprenticeship frameworks](#) as employers take on apprentices on the new standards, ensuring that Issuing Authorities (IAs) and training providers have reasonable notice to prepare for the changes.

We understand that some IAs are preparing to manage the transition themselves, by voluntarily withdrawing either entire frameworks or specific level and/or pathways, and we support this activity, with the following guidance.

- Consultation with the sector – we expect IAs to publish a consultation document with their proposed withdrawal dates. This will allow employers, providers and awarding organisations to provide feedback and register any concerns about the proposed withdrawal dates. Following consultation, IAs should publish the final agreed list of frameworks and their withdrawal dates and notify their network of providers, employers and awarding organisations. IAs should also send the final list to ESFA and Federation for Industry Sector Skills and Standards (FISSS) so that they can take appropriate action, as required.
- Sufficient notice periods – a minimum of 6 months' notice of any withdrawal date should be given. This allows training providers to develop and update their delivery plans.
- The replacement standard is fully developed and ready for delivery – we expect that the replacement standard will have been approved and published for delivery by the withdrawal date and will cover the occupation of the framework pathway, leaving no gaps in provision. Please note that if the framework and/or pathway is being withdrawn because there has been little, or no, demand (for example, less than 10 starts a year), we still expect you expect you to complete steps 1 and 2.
- End point assessment organisations – once the replacement standard and assessment plan are approved, published and ready for delivery, [organisations can apply to be registered to undertake end-](#)

[point assessment](#). We would expect there to be end point assessment organisations available, within a reasonable timescale.

For further information, please contact the ESFA's [Service Desk](#) on 0370 2670001 or FISSS helpdesk on 0300 303 4444.

Individualised learner record (ILR): R04

For Information

The ILR R04 data collection for the 2017 to 2018 funding year is now open and will close at 6pm on Wednesday, 6 December.

It is strongly recommended that you submit your data as early as possible and that you review your validation and funding reports on the hub.

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.

2016 to 2017 Final Reconciliation Statements

For Information

Following submission of your 2016 to 2017 final funding claims for the grant funded allocations listed below, your final reconciliation statement will be published via the [Skills Funding Service](#) by the end of the month (November 2017).

- Adult Education Budget
- Adult Apprenticeships (up to April 2017)
- Advanced Learning Loans Bursary
- Learner Support
- Community Learning

The final reconciliation payment/recovery transaction (if applicable) relating to the 2016 to 2017 funding year will be processed in January 2018.

Improvements to the apprenticeship service - Amending apprentice records

For Information

Following feedback from employers and training providers we have improved the process for amending apprentice records. We have also improved the on-screen prompts that are displayed when an employer stops, pauses or resumes an apprentice.

Employers now have the ability to edit all the apprentice details, including the start date, before their training provider submits matching ILR data for an apprentice to the ESFA for the first time.

This will reduce the number of steps needed when amending an apprentice record. Please note any changes that are made will need to be approved by both the employer and training provider.

In addition, training providers are now able to edit an apprentice record until the first successful ILR match.

When a data match error occurs due to the apprenticeship course, and a successful ILR match has not previously been made, training providers are now able to request that the apprenticeship service record mirrors the ILR. A notification will then be sent to the employer for them to approve any changes, meaning the employer will no longer need to stop the record and enter a new one.

Improvements to the apprenticeship service - New task list feature

For Information

Over the coming weeks employers will be able to see a new task list feature on their account home page. This will display any activities they need to complete, with a link to where they need to go to action the task.

For instance, a task will be displayed if they need to sign their employer agreement. As we develop the service, more task notifications will be enabled, such as lists of apprentice cohorts to approve and changes to apprentice information.

Employers will still receive email notifications as usual if they have opted in to have these.

Improvements to the apprenticeship service - Finding end-point assessment organisations

For Information

When searching for an apprenticeship standard within [Find apprenticeship training](#) end-point assessment organisations and their contact details are now displayed at the bottom of the web page.

Where an end-point assessment organisation is listed, employers can contact them about the service they offer and the costs involved.

This new feature has been added in response to employer feedback saying they wanted it to be easier to find the relevant end-point assessment organisation.

If you have any queries about these changes or need any support, please call the National Contact Centre helpline on 08000 150 600 or [email](#).

Merger guidance

For Information

Those colleges merging in-year in 2017 to 2018 can continue to submit separate ILRs for the rest of the academic year. However, all new Apprenticeship provision starting after the merger date is recorded against the new merged UKPRN.

Further guidance for 2018/19 and beyond will be issued once the ESFA has carried out a full review of options for merging colleges.

Qualification achievement rates (QAR) 2016 to 2017 – provisional data window

Release of provisional data

We will publish your provisional QAR data for 2016 to 2017 in the week commencing Monday 8 January 2018.

You have until 5pm on Friday 2 February 2018 to inform us of any concerns about how we have implemented our published methodology; you cannot request fixes or adjustments to your 2016 to 2017 ILR data.

Your final QAR data will be published during March 2018.

Accessing provisional QAR data

We will publish your data through the data returns tab of the Hub and through BIRST reports. Guidance on how to use data extracts in the Hub and how to navigate BIRST will be published shortly on GOV.UK.

Each provider should have at least one super user account to access data; please ensure this is still a current user as they will need to approve user permission requests. Please also ensure you have the correct user permissions set up for your organisation in advance of the release date.

We have published guidance on GOV.UK on how to request access to the Identity and Access Management System (IDAMS) and how to request the required user permissions to access your QAR data.

The roles you need to access QARs are:

- 'Data Exchange Service – Provider Information Officer' for accessing the 'data returns' tab on the Hub
- 'BI Hub User' for the BIRST reports

R04 data returns - reminder

We only use the R04 ILR return for the 2017 to 2018 funding year to identify:

- late notified apprenticeship achievements
- restarts for learners returning from a planned break
- achievements within 90 days for the timely QAR calculations.

The R04 ILR return for the 2017 to 2018 funding year will not be used to correct any changes from the data recorded in the R14 ILR return for 2016 to 2017.

If you have any questions, please contact the [Service Desk](#).

[Is there anything wrong with this page?](#)

Services and information

[Benefits](#)

[Births, deaths, marriages and care](#)

[Business and self-employed](#)

[Childcare and parenting](#)

[Citizenship and living in the UK](#)

[Crime, justice and the law](#)

[Disabled people](#)

[Driving and transport](#)

[Education and learning](#)

[Employing people](#)

[Environment and countryside](#)

[Housing and local services](#)

[Money and tax](#)

[Passports, travel and living abroad](#)

[Visas and immigration](#)

[Working, jobs and pensions](#)

Departments and policy

[How government works](#)

[Departments](#)

[Worldwide](#)

[Policies](#)

[Publications](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Help](#) [Cookies](#) [Contact](#) [Terms and conditions](#) [Rhestr o Wasanaethau Cymraeg](#)

Built by the [Government Digital Service](#)

OGI

All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated



© Crown copyright