



Department
for Education

Qualification achievement rates 2021 to 2022 in-year data releases

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Purpose of document

1. This document is to support technical users of Qualification Achievement Rates (QAR) data, including those responsible for Individualised Learner Record (ILR) data returns, MI managers and software writers.
2. We will continue to update this document to provide answers to the most common questions users of the in-year QAR data are raising.

What is it?

3. The in-year QAR releases provide indicative QARs for apprenticeships, traineeships and education & training based on the 2021 to 2022 ILR R10 and R12 data. Although you may not have recorded all of your achievement data at this time, this early sight of your data gives you the opportunity to identify and resolve potential data issues prior to the ILR R14 hard close on 20 October 2022. **It is important that you use this in-year QAR to review your data, as you cannot change the 2021 to 2022 data after the final R14 window closes.**
4. The in-year QAR may differ from your provisional and final QAR if we update the methodology following your feedback.

Where can I find it?

5. We will publish the 2021 to 2022 in-year data through our Business Intelligence (BI) dashboard [View Your Education Data \(VYED\)](#). To access data via VYED, please ensure you have the correct IDAMS user access. The [IDAMS user guides](#) provide detail for creating access or checking your user permissions.
6. Previous years QAR data will continue to be available until the final QAR data for 2021 to 2022 is published.
7. Normally we provide comparison values for the previous 2 years using the same methodology to show a trend. Due to arrangements around the impact of covid19, we cannot retrospectively apply business rules for 2021 to 2022 to historical years where this will result in including data previously excluded or out of scope. This will mean:
 - a. As we did not supply 2019 to 2020 data, the data for this academic year will not be provided at provider level as trend data for 2021 to 2022.

- b. In 2020 to 2021, qualifications were identified as subject to normal or alternative/ Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) arrangements. Where qualifications were subject to alternative assessment/TAG arrangements these were out of scope for QAR. This will not apply in 2021 to 2022 and the expectation is all qualifications will have returned to normal assessment arrangements and are therefore in scope for QAR. We cannot retrospectively apply the 2021 to 2022 business rules to 2020 to 2021 and include data previously identified as out of scope. Therefore, only one year (2021 to 2022) of data will be produced and shared for Education and Training and Traineeships at provider level.
- c. As Apprenticeships continued to be subject to normal assessment, data will be produced and shared at provider level for 2020 to 2021 and 2021 to 2022.
8. The in-year dashboard will have a similar format to the previous releases.
9. We will publish the QAR data extract files on the Data Returns page through [View Your Education Data](#). The files can be accessed, along with the extracts from previous years, from the 'QAR Reports' section on the Active, Completed or Archived tabs.
10. To access these files you will need to have an IDAMS account with the relevant user role. For guidance on how to request or review your IDAMS account, refer to the [IDAMS user guides](#).
11. You can access all information about QARs through the [QAR webpage](#). This webpage contains the:
- key communications about QARs
 - Business rules and technical specification documents
 - National Achievement Rate tables
 - IDAMS accounts
 - Guidance documents for:
 - using the QAR reports
 - using the data extracts

What should I do with this data?

12. Early sight of the data allows you to check your data and be able to correct any issues before the 2021 to 2022 ILR hard close on 20 October 2022. **You**

cannot, and we cannot, change your 2021 to 2022 ILR data once the R14 ILR window closes.

13. We recommend that you review your in-year QAR data before submitting your R14 data. Some common data issues are identified in the later section '[Common questions and answers](#)' that you may want to review including:

- learners not included or excluded from the QAR calculations as expected
- overdue continuing aims
- overdue planned breaks
- incorrect recording of the ILR field 'Learner reference number in previous year'

14. Please refer to the 2020 to 2021 technical specification documents for further details about these areas and how they impact the QAR calculations. These are available from the [QAR Collections page](#) under the relevant academic year.

15. We also recommend reviewing the following ILR submission reports as these identify some QAR data issues:

- FRM06 - Continuance Issues
- FRM08 - Breaks In Learning: Duration
- FRM09 - Transfers with no return

16. You will find the submission reports on [Submit Learner Data](#) after you upload an ILR file. To access them, select the 'Download reports' option next to your latest ILR submission. In the downloaded file, open the document named 'Funding Rules Monitoring Report'.

What do I do if I find issues in my data?

17. You have until 20 October 2022 (ILR R14) to rectify any data issues identified with your 2021 to 2022 ILR data. **You will not be able to amend your 2021 to 2022 ILR data after this date, neither can we.** Any issues in the data that are not resolved by R14 may affect your QARs. For further information, refer to later question '[Can I change data if it is wrong?](#)'.

18. If you have any queries in relation to QAR, please contact us via our [online enquiry form](#) and select the QAR query type. Where the enquiry relates to specific learner queries, please also complete and submit the data query form which can be downloaded from the [QAR collections page](#) under the relevant academic year.

What data will be included in the in-year QAR?

19. The scope of these in-year results is the same as the full QAR that we will produce in early 2023, using the 2021 to 2022 business rules. The main difference is that the records used in the full-year version will be more complete, using R14 data from 2021 to 2022 and merging in the relevant achievement records from R04 in 2022 to 2023.

20. Any additional 2021 to 2022 aims added after R10 up to R14 this year that have a planned end date within the 2021 to 2022 academic year, will be added to your cohort in the full year results.

Common questions and answers

Q1. Why is my QAR lower than I expected?

We base the in-year QAR data set on the ILR data that you have returned to us so far in 2021 to 2022. For the first in-year QAR this will be up to R10, and for the second in-year QAR it will be up to R12.

As achievement data maybe incomplete at this stage, your QAR may be lower than you expect.

Providers traditionally do not record achievement data for education and training until the end of the academic year, meaning that the number of leavers, in particular for 16 to 18, will be lower than the final QAR data set that we produce.

Q2. The number of records in my data extract for the hybrid end year 2021.5 is higher than expected. Why is this?

One of the parameters in the hybrid end year calculation is the ILR 'Learning actual end date'.

We place records in the hybrid end year 2021.5 where the 'Learning actual end date' is not returned in your 2021 to 2022 ILR submission.

Once you complete the 'Learning actual end date', we will classify the records hybrid end year depending on the planned and actual end dates. For more details and examples of how the hybrid end year is calculated, please refer to the technical specifications accessed from the [QAR collections page](#) under the relevant academic year.

Q3. What records do you use in the in-year QAR?

We use the following ILR datasets for the in-year QAR:

- 2017/18 R14
- 2018/19 R14
- 2019/20 R14
- 2020/21 R14
- For 2021/22 we use the latest 2021/22 ILR; we use R10 for the first in-year QAR and then R12 for second in-year release.

For the in-year QAR, we treat the latest available ILR data as if it is an end of year dataset. This means that we bring through all the data you have returned to us into the QAR matching logic.

Q4. Why are there duplicate records in my data extracts?

There are several reasons why records may appear multiple times in your extracts. You should check the following:

- Have you recorded the previous learner reference number if the 'Learner reference number' has changed between academic years?
- Have any of the key criteria (such as Learning start date, Learning aim reference, Framework code, Standard code) changed compared to previous years? If they have, then the records will not have matched between years resulting in duplicate records.

Q5. How do I use the dashboard and data extracts?

To use the dashboard, please refer to the guidance on [View Your Education Data](#).

21. To use the data extract, please refer to the guidance document from the [QAR Collections page](#) under the relevant academic year.

Q6. Why are records in my dataset flagged as overdue planned breaks?

We flag a record as an overdue planned break if we cannot find a corresponding restart record in the same funding year or following funding year.

You should also check your FRM08 Breaks In Learning: Duration report on [Submit Learner Data](#), which identifies breaks in learning that last for more than 365 days. For more information about how to access this report, please refer to earlier section [What should I do with this data?](#)

The [provider support manual](#) contains guidance about how to record a restart when a learner returns from a break in learning, or what to do if a learner withdraws without returning from their break in learning.

Q7. What are overdue continuing aims and why are they important?

We flag a record as an overdue continuing aim if the record was reported as continuing in the 2020 to 2021 R14 ILR return (Completion status code 1), but there is no record of the aim in the 2021 to 2022 ILR. These aims are identified in your data extract by a value of 1 in the column Overdue_Continuing_Aims.

The QAR calculation treats these aims as withdrawn, which will lower your achievement rate.

You should check your data to ensure that you correctly report any aims identified as overdue continuing aims before the 2021 to 2022 R14 hard close.

You must return data in 2021 to 2022 for all aims reported as continuing in the 2020 to 2021 R14 ILR. If the learner has since withdrawn from the aim, you must record this in the 2021 to 2022 ILR with the relevant dates. Please refer to the [provider support manual](#) for guidance.

You can also check your FRM06 Continuance Issues report on [Submit Learner Data](#), which identifies continuing learners from 2019 to 2020 who do not appear in the 2021 to 2022 ILR. For more information about how to access this report, please refer to earlier section '[What should I do with this data?](#)'

Q8. If I start a learner after R10 and before 31 July will these be included in the final QAR?

Yes. We will bring through all of your 2021 to 2022 ILR data into the QAR data set, regardless of what the actual or planned end date is that you have returned to us. However, only those with a planned end date in 2021 to 2022 are in scope for the 2021 to 2022 QAR.

Q9. Will you be producing another in-year QAR?

We will produce another in-year QAR for 2021 to 2022 at R12.

After the R12 in year QAR, the next available QAR dataset will be in the provisional window in January (that uses R14 data and R04 2022 to 2023 data).

Q10. How do I raise a query with my data?

If you have any queries in relation to QAR, please contact us via our [online enquiry form](#) and select the QAR query type. Where the enquiry relates to specific learner

queries, please also complete and submit the data query form which can be downloaded from the [QAR collections page](#) under the relevant academic year.

Q11. What data do you exclude from QARs?

For more details of what is excluded from QARs, please refer to the 'Exclusion sections in the technical specifications accessed from the [QAR collections page](#) under the relevant academic year.

Q12. Can I change data if it is wrong?

If you find errors in your 2021 to 2022 QAR data, you can correct these by amending your ILR data when:

- The data relates to 2021 to 2022 ILR data and the R14 hard close has not passed.
- In specific instances where the data relates to 2020 to 2021 R14 ILR data, the 2021 to 2022 R14 hard close has not passed, and the error is covered by the provider support manual in the section 'Correcting errors' in the ([provider support manual](#)).

You can amend your 2021 to 2022 ILR data to correct data errors up until the R14 hard close on 20 October 2022.

Final ILR data, as returned at R14 in previous years, **cannot be changed**; we are not able to amend your 2017 to 2018 R14 to 2020 to 2021 R14 ILR data even if you discover a data error.

Always check your R14 ILR data carefully before the hard close to ensure that it is both accurate and complete.

Q13. How do you calculate hybrid end year?

The Hybrid end year it is the later of the:

- a. achievement year (for apprenticeship standards on funding model 36 only),
- b. planned end year
- c. actual end year or
- d. the year in which the data was reported

For more details of how the hybrid end year is calculated, please refer to the technical specifications accessed from the [QAR collections page](#) under the relevant academic year.



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