Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Apprenticeship standards transparency plans for 2018 to 2019

To account for delays in apprentices completing their programme

December 2019

Contents

Introduction and purpose of this document

1.   This document explains why we are producing a new transparency table for apprenticeship standards for Qualification Achievement Rates (QARs).

2.   For more information on QARs, please refer to the [QAR Business rules for 2018 to 2019](#) and the [Apprenticeships QAR technical specification for 2018 to 2019](#).

Understanding the terminology

3.   The terms 'we' and 'ESFA' refer to the 'Education and Skills Funding Agency' and associated staff.

4.   The term 'Department' refers to the Department for Education and associated staff.

5.   When we refer to 'you' or 'providers', this includes colleges, Higher Education Institutions, training organisations, local authorities and employers that receive funding from us to deliver education and training.

Why we are producing a new transparency table

6.   We became aware that some apprentices were unable to complete their apprenticeship standard when initially planned.

7.   These delays were for various reasons as the standards programme develops from its infancy, such as providers understanding how long new standards take to deliver, assessor capacity issues for some End-Point Assessment Organisations (EPAOs), some providers not planning enough time for end-point assessments (EPA), and some apprentices taking longer than planned.

8.   In addition, there were some specific EPAO capacity issues where apprentices who were planned to complete between May-July 2019 were not be able to complete until after July 2019; impacting on Qualification Achievement Rates (QARs).

What we are doing

9.   To account for these delays, we are publishing a new transparency table (as originally announced in June's [Update](#) and [Inform](#) articles). This builds upon the [Apprenticeship standards explanatory paper](#) we published alongside the official [National Achievement Rate tables (NARTs)](#) last year, giving the sector more information about standards as the programme develops.

10.   The official QAR will continue to be published through the [National Achievement Rate tables](#) in March 2020, and the new table will be published alongside [NARTs transparency tables](#) at the same time.

11.   Although we will continue use the official QAR for monitoring performance, we will account for this new transparency data in:

- working with Ofsted to ensure that they understand what we have done and why, so that they use the data and are able to take account of it appropriately in an informed way in their inspection planning and judgements

- recognising this data in our approach to applying Minimum Standards

12.   The initial design and contents of the table are contained in the next section; this new transparency table is for **standards only**, not frameworks.

13.   It is important to remember that we cannot differentiate between the reasons why an apprentice may take longer to achieve through the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) data.

The initial design of the table

14.   The data in the table below is fictional. We have used this to show how the data may look when we publish the table for each provider. The layout may change slightly in the final publication, but the key details below should still be available. Please read the key to the column headings below the table to ensure you understand the details. This table shows contains apprentices who:

- were planned to complete between 1 August 2018 and 31 July 2019 **and** did not complete by 31 July 2019 **or**
- completed between 1 August 2018 and 31 July 2019 **and** where their planned end date was on or before 31 July 2019

		a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
Provider name	Standard name	Cohort	Achievers	QAR	Still in learning after 31 July	…of which achieved Aug-Nov 2019	…of which withdrew Aug-Nov 2019	Transparency QAR - if achieved on time	Still in learning after 30 Nov
Provider A	Chef De Partie	1,000	600	**60.0%**	150	100	20	**63.6%**	30
	Hospitality Manager	1,000	500	**50.0%**	50	10	10	**50.5%**	30
	Dual fuel smart meter installer	1,000	800	**80.0%**	80	20	10	**80.4%**	50

a to **c** – these are the official QAR figures from the NARTs. These are the apprentices with a hybrid end year of 2018. For more information about the hybrid end year, refer to the Business rules and the technical specification.

d – these apprentices were still in learning as recorded in the final R14 ILR for 2018 to 2019.

e – these apprentices are a subset of (d) and achieved between August and November 2019 as reported in the R04 2019 to 2020 ILR. We normally record these as having a hybrid end year of 2019 rather than 2018.

f – these apprentices are a subset of (d) and withdrew between August and November 2019 as reported in the R04 2019 to 2020 ILR. We normally record these as having a hybrid end year of 2019 rather than 2018.

g – this increased QAR figure adds the late achievers to their official QAR to produce a 'transparency QAR'. We add the late achievers (e) to both the cohort (a) and achievers (b) volumes for the revised QAR. Mathematically this adds (b) and (e) together, and divides the result by the result of adding (a), (e) and (f).

h – these apprentices are still in learning as recorded in the R04 ILR for 2019 to 2020.

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