



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

# **2020 to 2021 Devolution Postcode Dataset Guidance**

**Version 1: August 2020**

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## Introduction and purpose of this document

1. We will use postcodes in the Adult Education Budget (AEB) to determine the funding body who funds the learner. This document describes how we will use learner postcodes to determine which funding body, us or a devolved authority, has accountability for funding the learner.
2. For more information about devolution please refer to the [Adult Education Budget \(AEB\) Devolution Guide](#).
3. This document should be read alongside the:
  - a. [ESFA funded adult education budget \(AEB\) funding and performance management rules 2020 to 2021](#)
  - b. [ESFA funded adult education budget funding rates and formula 2020 to 2021](#)
  - c. Each devolved authorities' Funding Rules
  - d. Each devolved authorities' Funding Rates and Formula
  - e. [ILR Specification 2020 to 2021](#)
  - f. [ONS Local Authority District to Combined Authority Lookup](#)
  - g. [ONS Postcode Directory](#)

## Understanding our terminology

4. The term 'we' refers to the Education and Skills Funding Agency. When we refer to 'you' or 'providers', this includes colleges, Higher Education Institutions, training organisations, local authorities and employers that receive funding from us and from devolved authorities to deliver education and training.
5. Where relevant in this document, specified combined authorities and the Mayor of London will be referred to as 'devolved authorities' or 'devolved authority area'.

## What is the purpose of postcode data in devolution?

6. For the 2020 to 2021 funding year (1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021), a portion of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) is devolved to the devolved authorities.

7. We, or a devolved authority, may fund learners eligible for AEB based on the postcode which the learner is resident at when they start their learning. This is based on their 'learning start date postcode'. Funding will come from the devolved authority the postcode resides in, or we will fund them if the postcode does not reside in a devolved area.

8. For further information on learner eligibility, you should refer to the relevant funding body's funding rules.

9. The data file that accompanies this guidance lists every postcode in Great Britain and the corresponding authority that is responsible for funding an AEB learner resident at the postcode. We have published this to help you identify which funding body, us or the devolved authority, is responsible for funding a learner you are looking to enrol so that you can check whether you have a contract to be paid for your learning delivery.

## How will we use the data?

10. We will use the 'Source of funding' (SOF) in the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) to determine which funding body is responsible for funding a learner, assuming they meet other eligibility rules.

11. We will then use the 'Learning start date postcode' in the ILR, which records the residence of the learner at the date they started learning, to validate the source of funding to ensure the correct SOF matches the **expected** postcode. We will use the postcodes in this data set to support this validation process.

## How can I use the data?

12. You can check the area that a postcode falls within. To earn funding for a learner, they must reside in an area in which you have a contract to provide training.

13. You can identify which funding body is responsible for funding the learner, subject to eligibility requirements. To return a valid ILR record for a learner, their combination of SOF and learning start date postcode must match a combination found in the dataset. Incompatible combinations of SOF and postcode at learning start date will result in validation errors and no funding.

## The structure of the dataset

14. The dataset is structured as in the following table. Please refer to the next section for the definitions of each column.

Postcode	Area	Source of funding	Effective from	Effective to
L2 3SW	LCRCA	111	01/08/2019	
M60 2LA	GMCA	110	01/08/2019	
CV1 2WT	WMCA	112	01/08/2019	
PE28 4XA	CPCA	115	01/08/2019	
TS17 6QY	TVCA	114	01/08/2019	
EC3A 8BF	London	116	01/08/2019	
BS1 6XN	WECA	113	01/08/2019	
NE27 0QQ	NTCA	117	01/08/2020	
S1 2BQ	SCRCA	105	01/08/2019	
PO30 1UD	England Non-devolved	105	01/08/2019	
CF99 1NA	Wales		01/08/2019	
EH99 1SP	Scotland		01/08/2019	

Table 1: The structure of the devolution postcode dataset

## The field definitions for the column headings in the dataset

### Postcode

15. This field will contain the postcode, these are not abbreviated and are given in full.

16. The postcode should be used with the 'Effective from' and 'Effective to' dates to determine which area and source of funding apply for learners starting their learning on a given date.

17. As an exception, some postcodes may appear more than once in this table for the same date range or an overlapping date range. This may happen if the mapping for a postcode moves from one area to another. If this happens, the postcode would be valid in both areas for an overlapping period, and a learner could be valid for funding by either responsible funding body. There might also be cases in future where a postcode straddles a border and two funding bodies both agree to fund learners resident in that postcode.

## Area

18. This field indicates which area a postcode falls within. All distinct areas in the dataset are shown in the previous table in 'The structure of the dataset' section.

- a. Devolved authority areas can be identified by their abbreviation. The table below maps each abbreviation to a devolved authority.
- b. Remaining areas outside of devolved regions are indicated as 'Wales', 'Scotland' or 'England Non-Devolved'.

Responsible authority	Area
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	LCRCA
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	GMCA
West Midlands Combined Authority	WMCA
Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority	CPCA
Tees Valley Combined Authority	TVCA
Greater London Authority	London
West of England Combined Authority	WECA
North of Tyne Combined Authority	NTCA
Sheffield City Region Combined Authority	SCRCA
ESFA	England Non-devolved
Wales	Wales
Scotland	Scotland

**Table 2: Mapping responsible authorities to area codes**

## Source of funding

19. This field corresponds to a valid source of funding (SOF) to record in the ILR.

- a. We will fund postcodes eligible for funding by SOF 105 (Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) - Adult), which is used for the area 'England Non-Devolved'.
- b. Each funding body has its own SOF in the table above, including all devolved authorities listed except for Sheffield City Region Combined Authority. The AEB budget has not been devolved to Sheffield City Region Combined Authority in the 2020 to 2021 funding year, but we have included them in the mapping to support the extension of AEB devolution to this area, subject to readiness and statutory tests being met. The AEB budget has not been devolved to West Yorkshire Combined Authority in the 2020 to 2021 funding year, and whilst we have not included them in the initial mapping we are looking to include them in subsequent datasets this year to support the extension of AEB devolution to this area, subject

to readiness and statutory tests being met. For the 2020 to 2021 year however, these areas have SOF 105, which we fund.

- c. We fund learners from Scotland and Wales only by exceptional agreement, so their SOF is blank.

## Effective From

20. This field is the earliest date that the postcode is valid for learning start dates with the corresponding area and SOF.

## Effective To

21. This field is the latest date that the postcode is valid for learning start dates with the corresponding area and SOF. This is left blank where we do not currently know an end date for that funding.

## How we produced the data set

22. We use the publicly available [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) postcode directory](#) to assess whether postcodes are fundable. This ONS dataset links postcodes to local authorities.

23. We use the publicly available [ONS Local Authority to Combined Authority Lookup](#) to map local authorities to devolved authorities and determine which postcodes are funded by which devolved region.

24. We then map local authorities to British countries to determine which postcodes we fund (English non-devolved postcodes), or which we do not typically fund (Welsh and Scottish postcodes) which we do not mark with a source of funding.

25. There are some special postcodes and non-geographic postcodes which are excluded from our data set or marked without a source of funding.

26. The ONS publishes this dataset quarterly, and we will update our devolution postcode dataset following ONS publication. The first devolution postcode dataset for the 2020 to 2021 funding year is based on the ONS postcode directory from May 2020.

## Exceptions

27. If a postcode is missing from this dataset, or unknown, then you should follow the guidance in the [provider support manual](#) around postcode validation for mandatory fields.

28. In exceptional circumstances where you believe there is a legitimate case for a learner resident at the postcode to be funded by an funding body not shown in this dataset, you can explore authorisation from the relevant funding body to fund that learner.

29. If the funding body authorises funding of that learner, you can use a Learning Delivery Funding and Monitoring (LDFAM) code in the ILR to record that authorisation, this will override the validation rules that match the Source of Funding (SOF) against postcodes.

30. The relevant type and code are DAM 001. However, you **must** have the authorisation by the relevant funding bodies (i.e. authorisation from the SOF you wish to use, and authorisation from the SOF that is responsible for funding the postcode) to use this DAM code.

31. We and the devolved authorities will monitor all use of DAM 001 for compliance, and you must retain evidence of the agreement from the appropriate funding body for use of DAM 001.

32. In some cases, a postcode does not have a local authority mapping in the ONS dataset, usually when the postcode is newly created. Where a postcode does not have a local authority assigned, we will not include it in our dataset. We will include the postcode in our dataset when it is subsequently mapped by the ONS dataset. However, if a learner living in such a postcode wishes to enrol, the relevant funding body may agree to authorise their funding through a method listed above.

## Support

33. As [published](#) previously, from 1 August 2019, we will remain responsible for handling enquiries and complaints from providers, other stakeholders and learners resident in non-devolved areas and / or in respect of provision which the ESFA is funding or has commissioned.

34. Enquiries and complaints from providers, other stakeholders and learners resident in devolved areas will be handled by the respective devolved authorities.



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