



Skills Funding
Agency

Introduction to Qualification Success Rates and Minimum Standards for 2013 to 2014

January 2015



Skills Funding
Agency

The aim of this presentation

These slides will:

- Give a high level understanding of what Qualification Success Rates and Minimum Standards are
- Summarise how QSRs are calculated
- Show what data is used in the calculations and what data is excluded
- Signpost you to the key documents on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) should you want further information



Skills Funding
Agency

What are Qualification Success Rates?



Skills Funding
Agency

What are Qualification Success Rates (1)

- Qualification success rates (QSRs) give an indication of how well colleges and training organisations perform in a particular academic year.
- There is a basic calculation that works out what proportion of learning was successfully completed. The result is shown as a percentage figure.



Skills Funding
Agency

What are Qualification Success Rates (2)

QSRs continue to be one important measure of assessing provider performance and quality within government supported education and skills training.

The [rationale for the QSR methodology](#) is published on gov.uk



Qualification Success Rates

Rationale for the method to be used
from 2013 to 2014

May 2014

Of interest to providers and employers



Skills Funding
Agency

What are Qualification Success Rates (3)

There are numerous QSR reports so that learning provision can be broken down to a lower level. For example there are reports to show QSRs by:

- Apprenticeship level and age
- Sector subject area
- Ethnicity
- Qualification type and level



Skills Funding
Agency

How are Qualification Success Rates
calculated?



Skills Funding
Agency

How are QSRs calculated? (1)

QSR reports are broken down into three broad types of provision:

- Apprenticeships
- Classroom learning
- Workplace learning



Skills Funding
Agency

How are QSRs calculated? (2)

There are two types of Qualification Success Rates

- **Overall** - success is simply the achievement of the qualification aim, based on the later of the planned or actual leaving date.
- **Timely** - success is counted if the qualification achievement occurs on, before or within 90 days after the planned end date.

QSR figures are given as a percentage.



How are QSRs calculated? (3)

The 2013 to 2014 overall qualification success rate counts aims or frameworks that either ended, or were planned to end, in the funding year ending 31 July 2014. This is known as the hybrid end year.

The basic calculation for the **Overall** QSR for Apprenticeships is:

$$\frac{\text{Number of funded programmes that have been achieved at any time}}{\text{Number of funded programmes that have finished}} \times 100$$



Skills Funding
Agency

How are QSRs calculated? (4)

The basic calculation for the Timely QSR percentage for Apprenticeships is:

$$\frac{\text{Number of funded programmes that have been achieved by their planned end date or within 90 days of it}}{\text{Number of funded programmes expected to be finished}} \times 100$$



Skills Funding
Agency

What data is used in the
Qualification Success Rate
calculation?



Skills Funding
Agency

What data is used in the 2013 to 2014 QSR calculation? (1)

- A dataset is created for each provider using all funded (including loans) provision from their ILR files.
- Any Apprenticeship providers involved in the Large Employer Outcome Pilot will also have that data included.



Skills Funding
Agency

What data is used in the 2013 to 2014 QSR calculation? (2)

- Producing the dataset to be run through the QSR calculation is a complex process.
- For the technical details, including process flow diagrams, you can download the [dataset specification documents](#) for Apprenticeships, Classroom learning and Workplace learning.
- As Individualised Learner Record (ILR) data is used to decide which aims to exclude, it is vital that the ILR data is correct.



Skills Funding
Agency

What data is used in the 2013 to 2014 QSR calculation? (3)

- QSRs are published annually. Some learning aims or frameworks last for a number of years, so data from the last five years is stitched together and any learning that was planned to have ended in 2013 to 2014 is in scope.
- The later of either the planned end date or actual end date is used for calculating the overall success rate.



Skills Funding
Agency

What data is used in the 2013 to 2014 QSR calculation? (4)

- The R04 collection of the 2014 to 2015 ILR will be used to calculate the timely success rates. This ensures we identify all aims or frameworks that were achieved within 90 days of their planned end date.
- The R04 collection is not used to calculate the Overall Success Rate for 2013 to 2014, aside from a very small number of Apprenticeships (cases where there was a delay in receiving the Apprenticeship certificate).



Skills Funding
Agency

What data is *not* used in the 2013 to 2014 QSR calculation? (1)

Some learning aims are not counted in QSRs and Minimum Standards. Reasons include:


- the aims relate to new activity that providers need time to get used to delivering
- aims are delivered as part of a pilot programme
- aims are not funded by the SFA, EFA or not financed by a 24+ advanced learning loan
- it is not a qualification
- circumstances beyond the provider's control.



Skills Funding
Agency

What data is *not* used in the 2013 to 2014 QSR calculation? (2)

For a high level summary of aims that are either in scope or excluded from QSR calculations, see [the QSR Business Rules](#)



Skills Funding Agency

Paper

Qualification success rates: business rules from 2013 to 2014

Date of issue 6 October 2014
Audience Public

Publication intent Not protectively marked

Background and introduction

- 1 The core components of the qualification success rates (QSR) approach and method of calculation are based upon key policy, business and technical Individualised Learner Record (ILR) rules and changes.
- 2 In previous years there have been separate business rules documents for each provision area funded through the Adult Skills Budget (ASB). Following confirmation¹ by the Agency of the change to have consistent methods of QSR calculation across all provision funded by the Adult Skills Budget, there will be this single business rules document relating to QSR for 2013 to 2014.

Purpose

- 3 This document outlines the headline business rules that govern the method of calculation for the official QSR for provision associated with the academic year that runs from 2013 to 2014.

Methods of calculation

- 4 There are two separate QSR methods: the **overall QSR** and the **timely QSR**. We calculate both from data formally submitted by providers that is aligned with the appropriate specifications and requirements.
- 5 The overall QSR calculation measures the number of learning aims or Apprenticeship frameworks that are successfully achieved at any time. This method is based on the hybrid end date of a learning aim/framework, which is defined as the later of the planned or actual end date. The result for any particular year uses those aims/frameworks that have a hybrid end date within that respective reporting period. The volume of aims/frameworks that

¹ As published in Update, issue 196, February 2014.

Chelyesmore House, Quinton Road, Coventry, CV1 2WT
T 0345 377 5000 www.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk




Skills Funding
Agency

What data is *not* used in the 2013 to 2014 QSR calculation? (3)

Rules to show why
aims are excluded are
published in three
dataset specification
documents for:

- [Apprenticeships](#)
- [Classroom learning](#)
- [Workplace learning](#)



Skills Funding
Agency

Apprenticeship qualification success rates 2013/2014

Producing the dataset and data definitions

Date of issue 5 September 2014

Contents

Section 1 – Introduction	2
Purpose of document	2
Purpose of qualification success rates	2
Apprenticeship qualification success-rate methodology	2
Apprenticeship business rules	3
Exclusions from Apprenticeship qualification success rates	3
Section 2 – Processing standard files	5
Process flow diagram	5
Identifying Apprenticeship programme aims	6
Processing further-education college mergers	6
Processing learner reference number changes	7
Merging programme aims across years	7
Qualification success-rate calculations	8
Section 3 – Contents of the qualification success-rates dataset for records created from the ILR	10
Source or derivation of fields in the qualification success-rates dataset	10
Section 4 – Contents of the qualification success-rates dataset for records created from the LEOP dataset	17
Source or derivation of fields in the qualification success-rates dataset	17
Section 5 – Contents of the LEOP dataset	23
Data items contained in the LEOP dataset	23
Changes from the 2012/2013 document	24

Skills Funding Agency
Chelyesmore House, Quinton Road, Coventry, CV1 2WT
T 0845 377 5000 www.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk
A partner organisation of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills



Skills Funding
Agency

What are Minimum Standards?



Skills Funding
Agency

What are Minimum Standards? (1)

- Minimum Standards are threshold levels set by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA). They are quality standards against which every provider receiving public funding is measured.
- Minimum standards only apply to SFA funded and loans funded provision. If a college or training organisation's QSR falls below the Minimum Standard threshold, then the SFA may intervene.



Skills Funding
Agency

What are Minimum Standards? (2)

- QSR and Minimum Standards reports are intended to help colleges and training organisations to identify any poor performance and improve quality.
- Colleges and training organisations should not use the Minimum Standards thresholds as quality benchmarks. The national average success rates are significantly higher and providers should use those to benchmark their performance and set targets for improvement.



Skills Funding
Agency

Minimum Standards 2013 to 2014

If a learning provider's success rate falls below the minimum standard thresholds, then that is one of the factors that may prompt the SFA to intervene.

The Agency has published details on [how it will apply Minimum Standards](#) and [how it will make decisions about interventions](#).

<i>Qualification Type</i>	<i>Threshold %</i>	Qualification Type Group
Apprenticeship Framework	55	App.
Access to HE	70	A
A Levels	75	A
AS Levels	63	A
Award	75	B
Certificate	70	A
Diploma	70	A
ESOL	63	B
Functional Skills SfL	63	B
GCSE Maths and English	75	A
GCSE Other	75	A
Other non-Regulated	75	B
Other Regulated	65	B
QCF Unit	75	B



Skills Funding
Agency

Minimum Standards tolerances? (1)

- Minimum standards use the overall success rate and use data for 2013 to 2014 only.
- They are worked out on a combined total of classroom learning aims for ages 19+ and workplace aims.
- Minimum Standards are applied to Apprenticeships for all ages.



Skills Funding
Agency

Minimum Standards tolerances? (2)

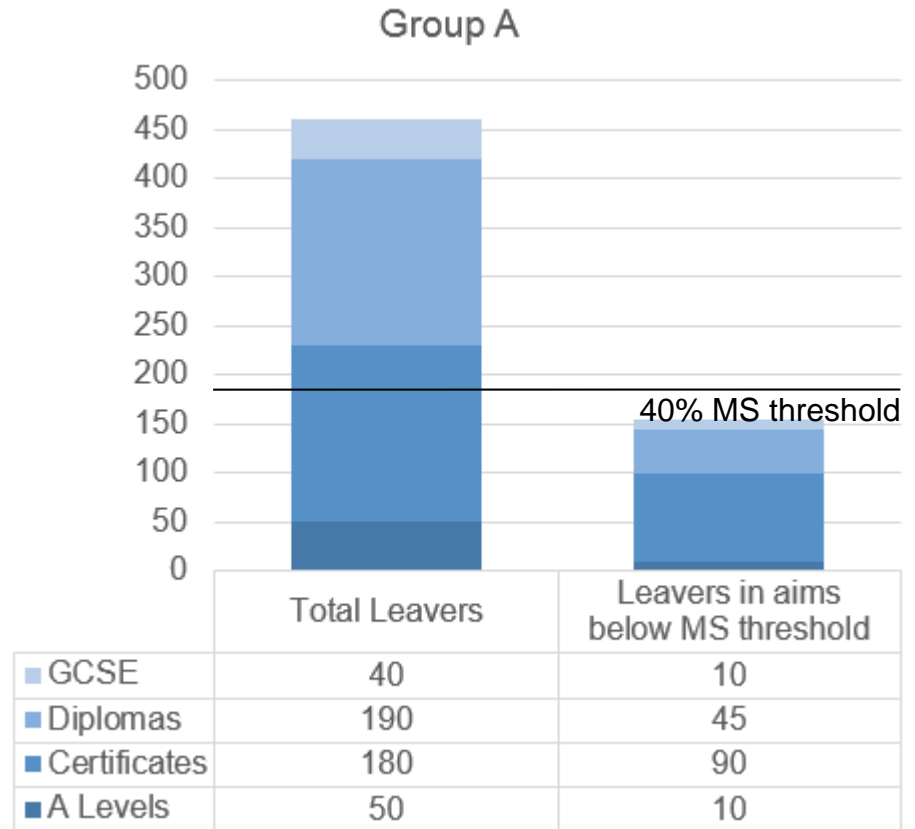
- The next two slides have some very basic examples to illustrate how Minimum Standards are applied.
- More detailed information on tolerances and detailed examples of how to calculate the percentage of leavers below the minimum standard threshold are in the [guidance notes](#).



Skills Funding Agency

Minimum Standards tolerances (3)

In this example, the provider would not fall below Minimum Standards for Qualification Group Type A provision. Even though their Certificates provision is below the Minimum Standard threshold, it is a small proportion of their overall Qualification Group Type A provision.



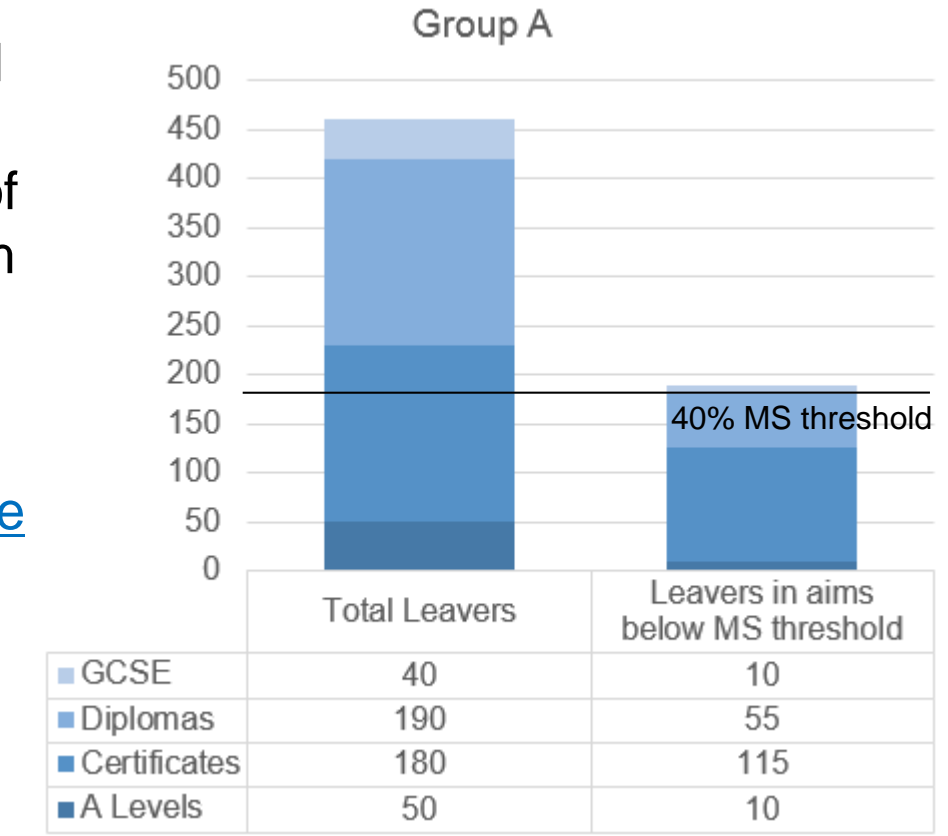


Skills Funding
Agency

Minimum Standards tolerances (4)

In this example, the provider would fall below Minimum Standards for Type A provision. More than 40% of their aims were below the Minimum Standard threshold for the qualification type.

The provider should look at [how the Agency will make decisions about intervention](#).





Skills Funding
Agency

When are Qualification Success Rates and
Minimum Standards reports published?



Skills Funding
Agency

Publishing QSR and Minimum Standards reports (1)

- Provisional 2013 to 2014 QSR and Minimum Standard reports are shared with learning providers in the third week in December 2014.
- Providers can find their reports on [Provider Gateway](#).
- Success rate data is included in the Statistical First Release (SFR) in January 2015.
- Data in both the provisional and the confirmed reports remains RESTRICTED until after the publication of the January SFR and is for the internal use of providers only until then.



Skills Funding
Agency

Publishing QSR and Minimum Standards reports (2)

- The Agency does not produce any in-year QSR or minimum standard reports. The final dataset is needed to calculate the overall success rate and so this can only be done at year end.
- The Agency recommends that learning providers monitor their in-year success rates by using our data specifications to produce their own figures or through the use of a commercial MI system that generates reports.



Skills Funding
Agency

Questions and contacts



Skills Funding
Agency

Questions and contacts

- If you have any QSRs or Minimum Standards questions, please log them with the [Service Desk](#)
- The [Service Desk](#) can also help resolve any problems accessing reports on [Provider Gateway](#)
- [Feconnect](#) will host an online question and answer session with representatives in January 2015. Further details will be published in [Update](#).
- If you have any feedback on this presentation, please email the Sector Engagement team cst@sfa.bis.gov.uk



Skills Funding
Agency

www.gov.uk/sfa