

SMALL BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND EMPLOYMENT BILL: NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION TO THE PUBLIC BILL COMMITTEE ON DESTINATIONS CLAUSE IN PART 6 (EDUCATION EVALUATION)

December 2014

To aid the Committee's consideration of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill, this note provides further information on the delegated powers in the Destinations clause in Part 6 (Education Evaluation).

Policy background

1. In the White Paper *The Importance of Teaching*, we said that analysis of the international evidence demonstrates that, alongside school autonomy, accountability for student performance is critical to driving educational improvement. It is vital that schools and Further Education ("FE") institutions should be accountable to parents for how well students do, and how taxpayers' money is spent. One of the measures we introduced to increase accountability, and provide more information for parents and students to make informed choices was destination measures.

2. We published destination measures as experimental statistics for the first time in 2012. The published information now shows the destinations of students and pupils at two stages in their education: those who have completed "key stage 4"; and those who have completed A levels or other level 3 qualifications (key stage 5). The information is published in anonymous, aggregate form, showing the proportion of a provider's students who go on to participate in education, training or employment in the six months immediately after leaving key stage 4 or key stage 5.

3. Since 2012 we have increased the coverage of the information to include the destinations of particular groups of students, such as free school meals students, and, this year, we included destinations to and from independent schools and special schools and from alternative provision. The information is being used by Ofsted, governing bodies and school and FE college leaders to assess how well an institution is preparing and supporting young people to progress into further or higher education or employment.

4. After the initial publication in 2012 school and FE college representative bodies asked for student level destinations information to be available to them so that they could undertake deeper analysis of which students made the best transitions. We also want to make student level information available to schools and colleges so that they have a greater understanding of, and trust in, the information before publication.

5. Whilst legislation allows us to share pupil level information with schools we do not have legislation in place to share student level information with FE institutions. Consequently we have shared key stage 4 pupil level education destinations information with schools since 2013, but we have decided not to share key stage 5

pupil level information with schools until we can also share such information with FE institutions.

Destinations Clause

6. The Destinations Clause will enable the Secretary of State and Welsh Ministers to share destination information with FE institutions. The destination information will be composed of student-level information and will include information on the 'prescribed activities' of a former student.

Proposed scope of Regulations

7. 'Prescribed activities' within the regulations will follow the activity fields of the destination measures statistics. For example, within the education category we include destinations such as 'further education colleges; UK higher education institution (which is further broken down into top third HEI, Russell Group and Oxbridge) and apprenticeships. The statistics with the full breakdowns can be viewed here:

[Statistics: destinations of key stage 4 and key stage 5 pupils - GOV.UK](#)

8. Only student destinations in the immediate year following departure from the FE institution will be shared with such an institution. For example, the latest destination measures data published in June 2014 shows the 2011/12 destinations of students who completed A levels and other level 3 qualifications in 2010/11. This means there is a time lag as to when we publish aggregate destinations information but it is still the immediate next year's destination (within the period October to the following March) that is reported.

9. The Department has consulted with a wide range of stakeholders about the range of destinations shown in destination measures.