



Learning Aims Reference System Hierarchy File 2014/2015 Guidance Notes

Date of issue 17 November 2015

Purpose of This Document

1. This document provides information about the 2014/2015 Learning Aims Reference System (LARS) Hierarchy file.

Purpose of the LARS Hierarchy File

2. The LARS hierarchy file provides a static set of learning aims information that is used by us when producing qualification achievement rate and minimum standards dashboard for education and training. The LARS hierarchy file can be used by providers and software developers who wish to produce their education and training achievement rate reports.

Contents of the LARS hierarchy file

3. The LARS hierarchy file contains data for each learning aim on the LearningDelivery table of the LARS database as at the end of the 2014/2015 LARS maintenance period, which is 23/10/2015.
4. LARS only holds the details of aims and frameworks that can be used in the 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 ILR. As achievement rates are produced for three years (2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015) aims from earlier years may not be present in the LARS hierarchy file. It may be necessary to use the Learning Aims Reference Application (LARA) Hierarchy file for 2012/2013 to obtain the data for these aims.

Date of Production

5. The LARS hierarchy file for 2014/2015 was published in November 2015.

Format of the LARS Hierarchy File

6. The hierarchy file is published in three formats:
 - Microsoft Access (.MDB)
 - Comma Separated Values (.CSV)
 - Pipe Delimited (.PSV)

Format of the LARS Hierarchy Version Record

LARS Hierarchy Fields 2014/2015	MS Access Field Type	MS Access Field Size	Description	Source
Freeze_Version	number	double	The version number of the freeze	Set to 1
Date_Created	date/time		The freeze creation date and time	Set to the date and time the hierarchy file was created

Mapping of LARS Data to the LARS Hierarchy File Records

LARS Hierarchy Fields 2014/2015	MS Access Field Type	MS Access Field Size	Description	LARS Source Table	LARS Source Field
AcadYear	Short Text	4	The identifier of the academic year	Default Value	1415
LearnAimRef	Short Text	8	Learning Aim Reference Code	LARS_LearningDelivery	LearnAimRef
LearnAimRefTitle	Short Text	150	Description of the learning aim	LARS_LearningDelivery	LearnAimRefTitle
SuccessRateMapCodeDesc	Short Text	150	Map Code Description	LARS_SuccessRateMapCode_Lookup	SuccessRateMapCodeDesc
SuccessRateMapCode	Short Text	8	A code used to group learning aims together in a hierarchy for the purpose of analysis	LARS_LearningDelivery	SuccessRateMapCode
AwardOrgResp	Short Text	8	A code to identify the awarding organisation associated with each learning aim record.	LARS_LearningDelivery	AwardOrgCode
LearnAimRefType	Short Text	4	A code used by the Learner Information Suite to assign funding units to certain listed learning aims (e.g. NVQs and GNVQs).	LARS_LearningDelivery	LearnAimRefType
NotionalNVQLevel2	Short Text	5	A code used to place all learning aims against a system of levels used by the QCA and Ofqual	LARS_LearningDelivery	NotionalNVQLevel2
NotionalNVQLevel	Short Text	1	A Code used to place all learning aims against a system of Levels used by the QCA and Ofqual	LARS_LearningDelivery	NotionalNVQLevel
FullLevel2EntitlementCategory	Number	Long Integer	A code to indicate the category or 'family' to which the learning aim belongs for the purpose of assessing how far the aim contributes to a Full level 2	LARS_AnnualValue	FullLevel2EntitlementCategory
FullLevel2Percent	Number	Decimal (5.2)	The percentage of a Full Level 2 to which a learning aim contributes	LARS_AnnualValue	FullLevel2Percent
FullLevel3EntitlementCategory	Number	Long Integer	A code to indicate the category or 'family' to which the learning aim belongs for the	LARS_AnnualValue	FullLevel3EntitlementCategory

LARS Hierarchy Fields 2014/2015	MS Access Field Type	MS Access Field Size	Description	LARS Source Table	LARS Source Field
			purpose of assessing how far the aim contributes to a Full level 3		
FullLevel3Percent	Number	Decimal (5.2)	The percentage of a Full Level 3 to which a learning aim contributes	LARS_AnnualValue	FullLevel3Percent
SectorSubjectAreaTier1	Number	Decimal (5.2)	Code used for (Tier 1) classification of the subject of a learning aim within the QCA Sector Subject Area classification system	LARS_LearningDelivery	SectorSubjectAreaTier1
SectorSubjectAreaTier2	Number	Decimal (5.2)	Code used for (Tier 2) classification of the subject of a learning aim within the QCA Sector Subject Area classification system	LARS_LearningDelivery	SectorSubjectAreaTier2
BasicSkills	Number	Long Integer	Indicates that the learning aim is considered a basic skill relating to achievements in literacy, numeracy and language and counts towards Basic Skills national targets.	LARS_AnnualValue	BasicSkills
BasicSkillsType	Number	Long Integer	A sub-category identifying the type of basic skill (for example, Adult literacy, ESOL)	LARS_AnnualValue	BasicSkillsType
CreditBasedFwkType	Number	Long Integer	Code to identify each different type of Learning Aim within a credit based framework.	LARS_LearningDelivery	CreditBasedFwkType
RegulatedCreditValue	Number	Long Integer	Indicates the learning aim's credit value within a credit based framework.	LARS_LearningDelivery	RegulatedCreditValue

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