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Funding Agencies Shared Services Team (FAS²T)

Title	What is the ILR Standard File Specification
Purpose	This document explains what is contained in the ILR Standard File Specification, how the files are structured, why we need the Standard Files and what they are used for.
Intended Audience	This document is aimed at anyone who uses the ILR Standard files for analysis, reporting or uses the ILR Standard File Specification as a basis for data requests from external organisations
Version 2	28-11-2016

What is the ILR Standard File Specification?

The Individualised Learner Record (ILR) Standard File specification is based on the Individualised Learner Record specification (available from the GOV.UK website by searching for “ILR”) and sets out the format that is used to store the ILR data collected from providers. The specification sets out the files that are to be produced, the format that is used to store the data and the derivation of the Derived Variables (DVs) that are added to the files. It also lists all of the lookup values for each field and DV where appropriate. This data is collected monthly from providers at dates set out in the freeze schedule. This data is then processed by the collections system which calculates the funding and adds the DVs derived by the rulebase, the “up-front” DVs, to the files produced. This data is then extracted from the collections system and the standard files produced following the ILR Standard File specification. The Standard files are then tested, published for internal use and initial examination, after which a quality statement is produced and the files are published for analysis.

What tables are included?

The core set of ILR standard files includes the following files:

Table Name	Description
SILR1617_LEARNER_SNnn	Learner tables (anonymised) hold learner ILR fields and learner DVs
SILR1617_LLDDHealthProblem	Learner’s disability, learning difficulty and/or health problem.
SILR1617_AIMS_SNnn	Aims table - holds learning delivery records and associated DVs
SILR1617_HE_SNnn	Higher Education table - holds records from Learner HE and Learning delivery HE
SILR1617_ADMIN_SNnn	Admin file - gives details of the number of learners in the current freeze, and the details of the source of the data in the freeze.
SILR1617_LEARNER_NAMED_SNnn	Learner table (with names and addresses)
SILR1617_FAM_UNB_SNnn	Funding and monitoring types which are unbounded
SILR1617_LearnerEmpStat_SNnn	Learner Employment status table including Employment status monitoring types
SILR1617_FUNDING_LEARNER_EFA_SNnn	EFA Funding learner - holds the output from the EFA funding calculation including on-programme payments and variables used to calculate funding
SILR1617_FUNDING_LEARNER_SFA_SNnn	SFA learner funding table holds SFA funding values by period aggregated to learner level
SILR1617_FUNDING_AIMS_SFA_SNnn	SFA aims funding table holds SFA funding value by period at aims level
SILR1617_FUNDING_LEARNER_ALB_SNnn	Adult loans bursary learner funding table holds SFA funding values by period aggregated to learner level
SILR1617_FUNDING_AIMS_ALB_SNnn	Adult loans bursary aims funding table holds SFA funding value by period at aims level
SILR1617_FUNDING_LEARN_TBR_SNnn	Trailblazer learner level funding table holds Trailblazer funding values by period aggregated to learner level
SILR1617_FUNDING_AIMS_TBR_SNnn	Trailblazer aims funding table holds Trailblazer funding values by period at aims level.
SILR1617_FUNDING_SUMMARIZE_SNnn	Funding summarization tables
SILR1617_ESF_DPOOutcome	ESF Learner destination and progression outcome
SILR1617_ESF_LearningDelivery	ESF Learning Delivery table - new for 2016/17
SILR1617_ESF_LearnDelDeliverable	ESF Learning Delivery Deliverables table - new for 2016/17

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Table Name	Description
SILR1617_ESF_LDDeliverable_Period	ESF Learning Delivery Deliverables Period table - new for 2015/16
SILR1617_ESF_LDPeriodisedValues	ESF Learning Delivery periodised values table - new for 2016/17
SILR1617_ESF_Supp_SourceFile	ESF Supplementary Data Source File table - new for 2016/17
SILR1617_ESF_SupplementaryData	ESF Supplementary Data table - new dataset for 2016/17
SILR1617_ESF_Supp_DataUnitCost	ESF Supplementary Data Unit Costs table - new for 2016/17
SILR1617_EAS	Earnings Adjustment Statement. Holds data from the Earnings Adjustment Statement (EAS) which is an on-line form used to claim funding that is not recorded on the ILR.
SILR1617_OLASS_EAS	OLASS Earnings Adjustment Statement. Holds data used to claim OLASS funding that is not recorded on the ILR.

There are a number of reference files which support the standard file production including:

Table Name	Description
ANALYTICAL_LARS	Analytical version of Learning Aims Reference Service
LARS1617_Framework	Frameworks
LARS1617_FrameworkAims	Framework Aims
LARS1617_FrameworkCmnComp	Framework Common Components
LARS1617_ApprenticeshipFunding	The funding rates for a funding category for an apprenticeship covering standards and frameworks - new for 2016/17
LARS1617_Funding	Funding Details
LARS1617_LearningDeliveryCategory	Category of Learning Delivery
LARS1617_Section96	Section 96 Details
LARS1617_Standards	Apprenticeships Standards table formerly Trailblazer Standards
LARS1617_StandardCommonComponent	Trailblazer Standards Common Components
LARS1617_StandardFunding	Trailblazer Funding Details
LARS1617_StandardValidity	Validity Details Of Trailblazer Standards
LARS1617_StandardAims	Learning aims associated with a standard - new for 2016/17
LARS1617_SupersedingAims	Superseding Aims
LARS1617_SupersedingFrameworks	Superseding Frameworks
LARS1617_UnitQualificationRelationship	Unit to Qualification Relationship
LARS1617_Validity	Learning Aim Validity
SILR1617_Org_Details	Organisation details
SILR1617_Org_Funding	Organisation funding details - holds funding factors and Coda codes
SILR1617_Org_HMPP_PostCode	Organisation Prisons postcode table
SILR1617_Org_HMPP_UOP	Organisation HMPP Unit of Procurement Table
SILR1617_Org_PartnerUKPRN	Organisation Partner Table
SILR1617_Org_RestructureEvent	Organisation Structure Events table
SILR1617_Org_TradingNames	Organisation Trading Names table
SILR1617_Org_UKPRN_UPIN	Organisation UKPRN to UPIN lookup
Postcode_Geographical_Attributes	Post code file - includes area cost and disadvantage uplift
Postcode Uplift Factors	Holds the area cost and uplift factors removed from the Postcode Geographical Attributes table for 1617

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The background data files that are exported from the data collection system are also published:

Table Name	Description
SILR1617_LearnerDPOutcome_SNnn	Learner destination and progression outcome - new for 2015/16
SILR1617_LearningDeliveryDVs_SNnn	Full learner DVs produced by the learning Delivery DVs rulebase (not all are included in the aims standard file).
SILR1617_LearnerDV_SNnn	Full learner DVs produced by upfront DVs rulebase (not all of these are included in the aims standard file).
SILR1617_LearnerHEFinancialSupport_SNnn	Learner HE financial support - new for 2015/16
SILR1617_LearningDelAppTrailFinDetails_SNnn	Apprenticeship Trailblazer financial details - new ILR dataset for 2015/16
SILR1617_LearningDeliveryWorkPlacement_SNnn	Learning delivery Workplacement holds details of Workplacement undertaken by learner on Traineeships or 16-19 study programmes
SILR1617_LearningDeliverySFAFund_SNnn	SFA Funding output contains variables used to calculate funding
SILR1617_LearningDelALBFund_SNnn	Adult loans bursary funding output contains variables used to calculate funding
SILR1617_LearnDelTrailblazerFund_SNnn	Trailblazer funding output contains variables used to calculate funding
SILR1617_LearnerSFAEFAFundingPeriod_SNnn	SFA learner funding by period for learners funded from SFA budgets via the EFA funding model

A full list of tables can be found in the ILR Standard File Specification

These tables can vary from year to year as the Individualised Learner Record specification is amended and modifies existing entities or adds new ones. ILR specifications for academic years 2013/14, 2014/15 and subsequent years can be found on the GOV.UK website by searching for "ILR". Previous years' ILR specifications are in the archived Information Authority (IA) website in The National Archives by following this link:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140108104635/http://www.theia.org.uk/ilr/ilrdocuments/>

You can find specifications for previous years ILR Standard Files in the archived Data Service website in The National Archives by following this link:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140107201041/http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/datasets/1011/Standard+Files+1011.htm>

What is the ILR Standard File Specification?

Why do we need Standard Files?

The standard files present the data in a consistent format that ensures that the data is interpreted as intended. Rather than analysis being carried out on raw ILR data, the data is pre-processed and converted into a format more suitable for the specific analysis tools that are used. The DVs give a consistent value instead of each user deriving their own, e.g. L_Age is used instead of users deriving age from the date of birth field. They add additional values to the lookup values specified in the Specification of the Individualised Learner Record. These values are added to exclude null values from the standard file where they could cause confusion, there are exceptions as can be seen in the table below. The new values are used to identify if the field is collected for each learner or if they are collected but not yet known or if the field is never collected for that particular type of learner. The table below shows how these values are used:

Additional Codes	Additional code description		
Value	Text Field	Numeric Field	Date Field
-1		Value never collected	
NA	Value never collected		
9 or 99 or 999		None of the above (unless otherwise specified)	
Null Value		Left as Null, except for funding fields which are set to zero	Left as Null

What are the ILR Standard files used for?

The ILR Standard files are used as source data for the population of the Data Warehouse (DWH) which in turn supports data cubes and is used for MI analysis and reports. They are also supplied to external partners such as the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Education Funding Agency (EFA) who use the standard files for analysis and forecasting. Extracts from the standard files are also used for other external data requests, Freedom of Information (FOI) queries, departmental AdHocs and Parliamentary Questions (PQs).

The ILR Standard files, either from the DWH or used directly, are the underlying data for the majority of the published statistical reports produced by the agency such as the Statistical First Release (SFR), the Qualification Success Rates (QSR) and many of the other reports in the FE data library which are available on the GOV.UK website by searching for "FE data library".