

Quality Statement for the Statistical First Release

When considering data for inclusion in the Statistical First Release (SFR) “Further Education & Skills: Learner Participation, Outcomes and Level of Highest Qualification Held”, we make an assessment of its quality.

The quality of data will be assessed for all data included in the Statistical First Release. This will be monitored and checked prior to each publication, to ensure that it is sufficiently complete to allow for the construction of reliable statistical estimates.

For the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) the assessment is based on the data quality of key fields used in the SFR and completeness. The data quality assessments are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ilr-data-check-that-it-meets-standards-and-quality-requirements>. The completeness of the ILR is based on the volume of further education providers that have returned ILR data for the data collections related to that release. This is in line with the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) standards that can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/individualised-learner-record-ilr>

If data is not sufficiently complete or of acceptable quality, then it will not be included in the Statistical First Release. This data will instead be provided in future releases, when the quality of data is sufficiently high.

Where data contributes to *headline figures* in a Statistical First Release, we will either:

1. Delay the publication date of the whole Release until such time as the data is sufficiently complete; or
2. Publish an annex that includes the relevant data as is, and look to replace this with more robust estimates as soon as they become available (e.g. Traineeship Progression and Completion in 2014/15).

Feedback and Queries

If you have any feedback and queries on this document please contact the Agency Service Desk on ServiceDesk@sfa.bis.gov.uk