



Skills Funding  
Agency

Update

Issue 302  
30 March 2016

## Welcome

In this issue of Update, our weekly round-up of business-critical and useful information to Skills Funding Agency (SFA) colleges, other training organisations and direct grant employers:

1. **Individualised Learner Record R08 2015 to 2016: Closes Wednesday, 6 April**
2. **Subcontracting Data: Second Collection**
3. **FE Choices Employer Satisfaction Survey 2014 to 2015: Results**
4. **FE Choices Employer Satisfaction Survey 2015 to 2016: Guidance**
5. **Qualification Achievement Rates: Final Release 2014 to 2015 and Minimum Standards Dashboards**
6. **National Careers Service: New Data Collection Service**
7. **Provider Gateway: Decommission in June**
8. **Letter to Colleges and Other Training Organisations: Minister of State for Skills**

Please share Update with your colleagues, who might like to register for [web alerts](#). This will notify them by email when we publish new editions of [Update](#) on [GOV.UK](#). If you have any feedback, please email [Update](#).

**NOTE:** Our [Business Cycle](#) sets out the key milestones from April 2015 to March 2016 and will help you plan ahead.

## 1. Individualised Learner Record R08 2015 to 2016: Closes Wednesday, 6 April

### Action

The individualised learner record (ILR) R08 data collection for the 2015 to 2016 funding year will close at 6.00pm on **Wednesday, 6 April**.

If you are due to provide a return for R08; you must submit your data to [the Hub](#).

We publish a [maintenance schedule](#), which lists collection dates and proposed system maintenance.

For further information, please refer to the [Payments and Data](#) page of [GOV.UK](#).

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## 2. Subcontracting Data: Second Collection

### Action

Organisations with a direct SFA funding agreement that are required to declare their subcontracting arrangements will receive an email shortly from their Central Delivery Service adviser.

The email will include instructions on how to submit an updated subcontractor declaration form. All in-scope funding agreement-holders **must complete** a form, even if it is a nil return.

The deadline for returning forms is **Friday, 15 April**; as set out in the Funding Rules we will suspend the May payment to any college or other training organisation that misses the deadline. As soon as we receive a valid form we will lift the suspension and release the payment at the next payment run. We will not consider any extensions to the deadline.

For further details, please refer to paragraph 52 of the [Funding Rules](#).

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### 3. **FE Choices Employer Satisfaction Survey 2014 to 2015: Results**

#### **Information**

You can now access your organisation's results from the [FE Choices Employer Satisfaction Survey 2014 to 2015](#) on GOV.UK.

In addition, performance indicators are available on the [Course Directory](#) pages of the National Careers Service website: enter the course name or subject in the 'Finding the right course for you section' and select the relevant course. The information returned includes FE Choices performance indicators on the left of the page.

The [national summary](#) of last year's [Employer Satisfaction Survey](#) indicates that 78% of employers were positive about the professionalism of their training provider's staff.

For further information, please contact the [Service Desk](#).

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### 4. **FE Choices Employer Satisfaction Survey 2015 to 2016: Guidance**

#### **Information**

The provider-led phase of the 2015 to 2016 Employer Satisfaction Survey started on **Tuesday, 29 March**.

To ensure colleges and training organisations gain a valid score, we encourage you to [read the guidance](#) and contact your employer customers before this phase ends on **Friday, 29 April**.

The SFA-led phase follows immediately afterwards and continues until **Wednesday, 22 July** for colleges and training organisations that have not met their minimum response level.

For further information, please contact the [Service Desk](#).

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## **5. Qualification Achievement Rates: Final Release 2014 to 2015 and Minimum Standards Dashboards**

### **Information**

On **Tuesday, 5 April** we will release final 2014 to 2015 apprenticeships and education and training qualification achievement rates (QARs) and minimum standards (MS) onto [the Hub](#) and [Provider Gateway](#).

There will be a business intelligence (BI) dashboard for each college or other training organisation on the Hub and a detailed data extract available on the Provider Gateway. You can access the dashboard from the Hub using the 'My BI' tab.

The data includes the type of training provider and national comparators in the final release.

For help and advice on how to access the Hub user roles, please email the [Service Desk](#).

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## 6. National Careers Service: New Data Collection Service

### Information

On **Monday, 21 March** we launched a new data collection service for National Careers Service area-based prime contractors. They are now able to submit their monthly data return to the SFA more simply and efficiently with a single automated data upload to **the Hub**, our data collection portal.

From **Friday, 1 April** a period of dual-running of the manual and automated data collections begins. The intention is to decommission the manual collection at the end of July, once systems have passed quality tests.

The new service will replace the former manual system and improve the quality and robustness of the data submitted.

For further information please contact **Consumer Services**.

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## 7. Provider Gateway: Decommission in June

### Information

In early June we will decommission the **Provider Gateway**, since many of the functions are historic and now redundant. Other systems already carry out some of the same functions or will do so in the future.

We will keep you updated on arrangements for functions that we will transfer, such as qualification achievement rates data.

From **Friday, 3 June** you will be **unable to access or download** any current or historic documents stored on the Provider Gateway. Please make the necessary arrangements to download any documents you wish to retain before this date.

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## 8. Letter to Colleges and Other Training Organisations: Minister of State for Skills

### Information

On Thursday, 24 March, Nick Boles, the Minister of State for Skills, wrote to all further education (FE) and sixth-form colleges and independent training organisations.

The **Minister's letter** provides an update on progress in implementing the FE reform programme, which is designed to raise the quality of vocational education for young people and adults.

For further information, please email **FE Governance**.

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