



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Paper

2020/21 ILR Freeze Schedule

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Publication intent OFFICIAL

1. Background and introduction

This document specifies when data 'freezes/snapshots' will be published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for the 2020/21 academic year, running from 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021. It does not cover information relating to any other academic year. Freezes for the 2019/20 academic year will continue until November 2020.

2. Purpose

The ILR timescales are mainly based on returns from providers being submitted on the 4th working day of the month. Providers are expected to make monthly returns with the data being used for specific reasons. The finalised return timetable is called 'ILR Specification 2020 to 2021 Appendix A - Data Collection Timetable' and is published on the GOV.UK website, under: <https://guidance.submitlearnerdatabeta.fasst.org.uk/ilr/appendices>

Provider returns are referred to as: 'Return Number - R01' etc. To differentiate, the freeze identifiers will be referred to as 'Snapshots' and named SN01 to SN14.

3. Freeze Timescales

The 'Snapshots' are based on the ILR Data Collection Timetable, location: <https://guidance.submitlearnerdatabeta.fasst.org.uk/ilr/appendices> scroll to Appendix A Data Collections timetable.

Please note: All dates are best endeavours and are subject to server availability. Data is available on the non QA dates for internal use only.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Snapshot/ Return Servers delivered to	Return date	Freeze extract date	Freeze publication (non QA) MIPub	Available on servers (non QA) DWH A&M ILR Extract ESFA	Quality Assurance date	Available in BI products (QA)
SN01 (R01)*	04/09/2020	11/09/2020	21/09/2020	24/09/2020	24/09/2020	25/09/2020
SN02 (R02)	06/10/2020	08/10/2020	13/10/2020	14/10/2020	16/10/2020	19/10/2020
SN03 (R03)	05/11/2020	09/11/2020	12/11/2020	13/11/2020	16/11/2020	17/11/2020
SN04 (R04)**	04/12/2020	08/12/2020	11/12/2020	14/12/2020	16/12/2020	17/12/2020
SN05 (R05)	07/01/2021	11/01/2021	14/01/2021	15/01/2021	19/01/2021	20/01/2021
SN06 (R06)**	04/02/2021	08/02/2021	11/02/2021	12/02/2021	16/02/2021	17/02/2021
SN07 (R07)	04/03/2021	08/03/2021	11/03/2021	12/03/2021	16/03/2021	17/03/2021
SN08 (R08)	08/04/2021	12/04/2021	15/04/2021	16/04/2021	20/04/2021	21/04/2021
SN09 (R09)	07/05/2021	11/05/2021	14/05/2021	17/05/2021	19/05/2021	20/05/2021
SN10 (R10)**	04/06/2021	08/06/2021	11/06/2021	14/06/2021	16/06/2021	17/06/2021
SN11 (R11)	06/07/2021	08/07/2021	13/07/2021	14/07/2021	16/07/2021	19/07/2021
SN12 (R12)	05/08/2021	09/08/2021	12/08/2021	13/08/2021	17/08/2021	18/08/2021
SN13 (R13)**	14/09/2021	16/09/2021	22/09/2021	23/09/2021	27/09/2021	28/09/2021
SN14 (R14)**	21/10/2021	27/10/2021	01/11/2021	02/11/2021	04/11/2021	05/11/2021

*SN01 is the first return of an academic year. Timescales have been compared to previous years, but dates are still subject to change.

** Reference dates are: 01/11/2020 for SN04, 01/01/2021 for SN06, 01/05/2021 for SN10 and 31/07/2021 for SN13 & SN14 - see ILR data collection timetable for full details

2020/21 timescales are:

	Column	Details
Freeze extract date	C	+2 working days after the Return date (column B) Except SN01 which is +5 working days and SN14 which is +4 working days
Freeze publication (non QA) - MIPub	D	+3 working days after the Freeze extract date (column C) Except SN01 which is +6 working days and SN13 which is +4 working days
Available on servers (non QA) – DWH, A&M ILR Extract & ESFA	E	+1 working day after the Freeze publication date (column D) as there is a dependency on overnight extraction Except SN01 which is +3 working days
Quality Assurance date	F	+3 working days after the Freeze publication date (column D)
Available in BI products (QA)	G	+1 working day after the Quality Assurance date (column F) as there is a dependency on overnight extraction

Quality Assurance

The ILR datasets will go through a quality assurance process which includes known issues. These are errors or problems with the calculation of derived variables, systematic incorrect recording of data by providers, and other data quality issues.

The ESFA will aim to issue quality assured ILR datasets no later than 3 business days after the freeze publication date.

Data supplied without Quality Assurance is provided internally for purposes of initial inspection and early modelling/reporting of the data, and should be used with caution. The data, or any analysis on the data, should not be shared externally until Quality Assurance of the data is complete. If any analysis on the results is shared internally prior to the Quality Assurance, then the analysis should be accompanied by wording to this effect.

Change Requests

Once this specification is signed-off, should any change(s) be agreed, they will be implemented to an agreed timescale as dictated by the ESFA Data Science Team resource constraints and business priority.

Additional Information

Further information regarding the ILR specification can be obtained from the GOV.UK website at the following link: <https://guidance.submitlearnerdatabeta.fasst.org.uk/>

Contact

The ESFA, Data Science Team are responsible for this specification and this document can be found under: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sfa-ilr-standard-file-specifications-and-reference-data>

For changes to this specification, please contact the ESFA, Data Science Team through the ESFA Service Desk by using the [online enquiry form](#).

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

Term	Description
Snapshot / Return	Used as an identifier for each freeze. Each freeze will be known as SN01 to SN14.
Return date	Providers are expected to make monthly returns with the data being used for specific reasons. Full details can be found under: https://guidance.submitlearnerdatabeta.fasst.org.uk/ilr/appendices in 'ILR Specification 2020 to 2021 Appendix A - Data Collection Timetable'.
Reference date	Used in conjunction with the above, the Reference dates act as a timeliness date for 16-19 (excluding apprenticeships) & Community learning funding models. Providers should submit complete and accurate data by the dates specified to ensure their data is captured in the relevant returns. Full details can be found under : https://guidance.submitlearnerdatabeta.fasst.org.uk/ilr/appendices in 'ILR Specification 2020 to 2021 Appendix A - Data Collection Timetable'.
Freeze extract date	The date the extraction of data begins from the ESFA database systems. Freezes are used as a consistent basis for analysis and production of management information.
Freeze publication (non QA) – MIPub	The date the ESFA Data Science Team will release the data to the Publication server. The ESFA Data Science Team aim to complete the freeze process within 3 working days. Data should then be available on the Publication server on the day shown in this field. The data is supplied for initial inspection and for early modelling/reporting of the data, and is supplied at the customer's own risk.
Available on servers (non QA) – DWH, A&M, ILR Extract & ESFA	See above. After publication to the Publication Server, the data is transferred overnight by the ESFA Data Science Team to the DWH, A&M, ILR Extract and other ESFA servers. The data is supplied for initial inspection and for early modelling/reporting of the data, and is supplied at the customer's own risk.
Quality Assurance date	The date that the ESFA Data Science Team will assure the quality of the data. It is aimed to complete this within 3 working days of the Freeze publication to the Publication server as shown in column D in section 3. Data should then be available to the business on the dates shown.
Available in BI products (QA)	After publication to the DWH, ILR Extract and other ESFA servers and after the Quality Assurance date, the data is transferred by the ESFA Data Science Team to BI products for consumption.