



Department
for Education

2025 to 2026 ILR freeze schedule

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1. Background and introduction

This document specifies when data ‘freezes or snapshots’ will be published by the Department for Education (DfE) for the 2025 to 2026 academic year, running from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026. It does not cover information relating to any other academic year. Freezes for the 2024 to 2025 academic year will continue until November 2025.

2. Purpose

The ILR timescales are mainly based on returns from providers being submitted on the fourth working day of the month. Providers are expected to make monthly returns with the data being used for specific reasons. The finalised return timetable document is called ‘Data Collection Timetable 2025 to 2026’.

guidance.submit-learner-data.service.gov.uk/25-26/data-collection-timetable.

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:

guidance.submit-learner-data.service.gov.uk/25-26/data-collection-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 or return Servers delivered to	Return date	Freeze extract date	Freeze publication (non QA) MIPub	Available on servers (non QA) ADA	Quality assurance date	Available in View Your Education Data (QA)
SN01 (R01)*	04/09/2025	11/09/2025	19/09/2025	24/09/2025	24/09/2025	25/09/2025
SN02 (R02)	06/10/2025	08/10/2025	13/10/2025	14/10/2025	16/10/2025	17/10/2025
SN03 (R03)	06/11/2025	10/11/2025	13/11/2025	14/11/2025	18/11/2025	19/11/2025
SN04 (R04)**	04/12/2025	08/12/2025	11/12/2025	12/12/2025	16/12/2025	17/12/2025
SN05 (R05)	07/01/2026	09/01/2026	14/01/2026	15/01/2026	19/01/2026	20/01/2026
SN06 (R06)**	05/02/2026	09/02/2026	12/02/2026	13/02/2026	17/02/2026	18/02/2026
SN07 (R07)	05/03/2026	09/03/2026	12/03/2026	13/03/2026	17/03/2026	18/03/2026
SN08 (R08)	08/04/2026	10/04/2026	15/04/2026	16/04/2026	20/04/2026	21/04/2026
SN09 (R09)	07/05/2026	11/05/2026	14/05/2026	15/05/2026	19/05/2026	20/05/2026
SN10 (R10)**	04/06/2026	08/06/2026	11/06/2026	12/06/2026	16/06/2026	17/06/2026
SN11 (R11)	06/07/2026	08/07/2026	13/07/2026	14/07/2026	16/07/2026	17/07/2026
SN12 (R12)	06/08/2026	10/08/2026	13/08/2026	14/08/2026	18/08/2026	19/08/2026
SN13 (R13)**	14/09/2026	16/09/2026	22/09/2026	23/09/2026	25/09/2026	28/09/2026
SN14 (R14)**	22/10/2026	28/10/2026	02/11/2026	03/11/2026	05/11/2026	06/11/2026

*SN01 is the first return of an academic year and considered to be a test file. Timescales have been compared to previous years but dates are still subject to change.

** Reference dates are: 01/11/2025 for SN04, 01/01/2026 for SN06, 01/05/2026 for SN10 and 31/07/2026 for SN13 & SN14 - see ILR data collection timetable for full details

2025 to 2026 timescales

Date	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) – ADA	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 View Your Education Data (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.

DfE 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 changes be agreed, they will be implemented to an agreed timescale as dictated by DfE resource constraints and business priority.

Additional Information

Further information about the [ILR specification](#) is available on GOV.UK.

Contact

DfE are responsible for this specification. It is available on [ILR standard file specifications and reference data](#).

For changes to this specification, please contact DfE using the [Customer help portal](#).

Appendix A: Glossary of terms

Snapshot or 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 as agreed. Full details can be found guidance.submit-learner-data.service.gov.uk/25-26/data-collection-timetable.

Reference date

Used in conjunction with the above, the Reference dates act as a timeliness date for 16-19 (excluding apprenticeships) and 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 guidance.submit-learner-data.service.gov.uk/25-26/data-collection-timetable.

Freeze extract date

The date the extraction of data begins from DfE database systems. Freezes are used as a consistent basis for analysis and production of management information.

Freeze publication (non QA) – MIPub

The date DfE will release the data to the Publication server. DfE 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) – ADA

See above. After publication to the Publication Server, the data is transferred overnight by DfE to the ADA platform.

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 DfE will assure the quality of the data. It is aimed to complete this within 3 working days of the Freeze publication to MIPub as shown in column D in section 3. Data should then be available to the business on the dates shown.

Available in View Your Education Data (QA)

After publication to the ADA platform and after the Quality Assurance date, the data is transferred by DfE to View Your Education Data for consumption.

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