

Update

Issue 21
1 September 2010

**Skills
Funding
Agency**

Welcome

Update is our round up of business critical and useful information to Skills Funding Agency providers. If you have any feedback please get in touch by emailing: update@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk.

All back copies and the current issue of Update are available on the [Skills Funding Agency website](#).

Please forward and share this with relevant colleagues within your organisation.

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Sub-contracting Arrangements

Action

In line with the requirements set out in the recently published 2010/11 Funding Requirements documents, colleges and providers are requested to notify the Skills Funding Agency of their sub-contracting arrangements. Please visit the [Skills Funding Agency website](#) to find out more. A [declaration form](#) has been developed to collect the required information on sub-contractors.

Providers are asked to send the completed spreadsheet to their Account Manager with a copy to a Procurement Team central [email address](#). This will allow a complete national picture of sub-contractors and sub-contracting to be established for the first time.

Equality and Diversity Partnership Project Fund

Action

The Skills Funding Agency has joined forces with the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) to offer a total fund of £200,000 for equality and diversity projects. Criteria are deliberately flexible to enable colleges and providers to identify the areas of greatest need. Colleges and providers are invited to bid for up to £25,000 each to undertake projects between November 2010 and April 2011. Full details will be available on the [LSIS website](#) from 1 September 2010.

2010/11 Individualised Learner Records changes – are you prepared for the 6 September 2010?

Action

The changes to the Individualised Learner Records (ILR) Specification for 2010/11 came into effect on 1 August 2010, and the first ILR return for 2010/11 is due on **6 September 2010**. Full details of all the changes are available in the [2010/11 ILR Changes training module](#), and on the [2010/11 ILR Specification page](#).

Data Quality reminder – Field H09

Information

Action

Those providers who include Higher Education data in their Individualised Learner Records (ILR) data returns are reminded of the importance of adhering to the guidance contained in the ILR Specification, in particular to the correct completion of field H09 in their returns. The guidance can be found in the [2010/11 ILR Specification](#) on *the information authority* website.

Launch of 2010/11 Individualised Learner Records changes online tool

Information

Action

The Data Service and *the information authority* have launched an online training tool that guides the user through the 2010/11 Individualised Learner Records (ILR) changes. This module complements the [existing ILR e-learning module](#). This new tool is available to access from both [the information authority](#) and [Data Service](#) websites.

2010/11 Individualised Learner Records Online launched

Information

The information authority has launched its [online version of the 2010/11 Individualised Learner Records \(ILR\) specification](#), following its release of the 2009/10 online specification in May 2010.

The aim of ILR Online is to make the ILR specification more accessible and easier to navigate. It has been created following requests from learning providers to make the ILR specification easier to search and more intuitive to use.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills – call for evidence Review of Offender Learning.

Consultation

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) call for evidence for the Review of Offender Learning was published on the BIS website on the 20 August 2010. The closing date for responses is 5.00 p.m. on the 24 September 2010. The review covers offender learning in custody and in the community and will be of interest to a range of providers.

The document is available on the [BIS website](#).

Launch of the Data Quality Dashboard Reports

Information

The Data Quality Dashboard Reports have been launched for Learner Responsive, Employer Responsive and Adult Safeguarded Learning Individualised Learner Record collection types; reports for the European Social Fund (ESF) Short Record category should be available by 31 August 2010. Providers can download the reports from Document Exchange on the [Provider Gateway](#). Further details are available on [the Data Service website](#).

Last chance to respond to Single Equality Scheme consultation

Consultation

Since June, the Agency has been consulting on its draft Single Equality Scheme. We are grateful for the responses we have had so far, from colleges, providers, learners, parents, staff and stakeholders. There are now just a few days left to add your voice, as the consultation ends on 6 September. Full details of how to get involved are available on the [Skills Funding Agency Website](#).

Changes to the funding arrangements for young people – revisions to the Individualised Learner Records Specification for 2010/11

Information

In July 2010, it was announced that the [Young People's Learning Agency \(YPLA\)](#) would be [funding FE colleges, training providers and sixth form colleges](#) for 16-18 education directly, rather than through local authorities.

The information authority has therefore updated the guidance in the Individualised Learner Records Specification for 2010/11 to take account of this change. Please visit [the information authority website](#) for further details.

The Skills Funding Agency funds and regulates adult further education and skills in England.

An agency of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills.

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