

HEIFES18 - Data Verification Exercise

- In pairs or small groups, work together to complete the exercise. You can refer to the annexes in the draft guidance document provided.

This answer sheet provides one way of expressing / interpreting the data changes and is not intended as the only possible answer.

Scenario

In your delegate packs, we have provided a set of comparison tables for North East Ware College. Several of these show highlighting where their HEIFES18 data shows significant changes, compared to their 2017-18 data.

For each highlighted table, we would like you to:

- Identify what changes are being highlighted. (E.g. is there an increase or decrease? What specific groups are involved?)
- Suggest possible reasons for the changes. (E.g. specific changes to the college's student body that might be reflected in the data – changes to recruitment in particular departments, etc.)

Comparison worksheet 1

Highlighting is present on 3 comparison tables.

Table A: total countable years of course

What are the changes? <i>HEIFES18 shows an increase of around 10% (70 – 80) compared to 2017-18.</i>
Possible reasons for the changes. <i>May include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Increased recruitment</i>- <i>Improved completion rate</i>

Table C: OfS-fundable FTEs split by mode

What are the changes? <i>Increase is in part-time provision compared to 2017-18.</i> <i>There is also some small (un-highlighted) changes to full-time FTE.</i> <i>NOTE – this table is only looking at OfS-fundable FTEs, and doesn't show any changes to non-fundable or island & overseas students.</i>

Possible reasons for the changes.

May include:

- *Increase in fundable FTEs is primarily down to increases in part-time provision.*
- *Could involve changes in FTE, new students*

Table E: OfS-fundable FTEs split by price group

What are the changes?

Compared to 2017-18:

- *An increase in price group B FTEs (about +53, a change of 10 percentage points from 56% of the total to 67%)*
- *Very small (un-highlighted) decreases in price group C2 (around -8 FTE) and price group D (around -6 FTE).*

NOTE – again, OfS-fundable provision only

Possible reasons for the changes.

May include:

- *The increase in OfS-fundable FTEs is due to a part-time price group B course. Looking at Table D (un-highlighted) they may also note that it is an undergraduate course.*

Comparison worksheet 2

Highlighting is present on 2 comparison tables.

Table F: OfS-fundable non-completion percentages

What are the changes?

Full-time undergraduate students (highlighted)

- *Non-completion percentage has increased by 4.0%age points compared to HEIFES17. (10.9% → 14.9%).*
- *The percentage has also increased by 5.8 %age points compared to 2016-17 ILR. (9.1% → 14.9%).*

Part-time undergraduate students (un-highlighted). Non-completion %age has:

- *decreased by 1.2 %age points compared to 2017-18 ILR (14.7% → 13.5%)*
- *increased by 1 %age point compared to HEIFES17*

Possible reasons for the changes.

May include:

Changes to provision – reduced numbers on courses with higher non-completion percentages; increased numbers on courses with low non-completion percentages.

Changes to institutional processes (e.g. improved monitoring of students, better tutor support, etc) – if there is evidence to support this.

Historical trends – e.g. PT UG shows an improving trend from 2016-17 to 2017-18 and the prediction for HEIFES18 extends this.

- *NOTE – whatever changes are discussed, it is important to remember that they need to be based on historical data, rather than represent a target or ambition. So it is not sufficient to say that percentages are lower in HEIFES18 because of a new programme that is being introduced, unless there is evidence to support that assumption.*

Table I: proportion of new entrants

What are the changes?

- *Proportion of new entrants for part-time, UG students (Home & EU) has increased.*
- *Other small changes are not highlighted, either due to the proportional change being small (FT, UG, Home & EU) or a small absolute change (FT, UG, Island and overseas)*

Possible reasons for the changes.

May include:

- *Introduction of a new PT, UG course (so all students would be new entrants)*
- *Increased recruitment to PT courses*

Comparison worksheet 3

Highlighting is present on 2 comparison tables.

Table J: Years countable on apprenticeships

What are the changes?

- *Institution is recording 20 years taken as part of an apprenticeship and none were recorded in HEIFES17*

Possible reasons for the changes.

May include:

New apprenticeship offered this year.

- *Is at HND level, so might be a particular course, linked to the information above. (E.g., PT HND in Construction as part of an apprenticeship).*

Table K: Students taught under sub contractual arrangements

What are the changes?

- *Students are sub-contracted out to another OfS-funded further education college.*
- *PT, UG student numbers have increased by 103% (100 → 203) compared to HEIFES17*

Possible reasons for the changes.

May include:

- *Expansion of an existing relationship with a college (new courses, increased recruitment to existing courses).*
- *The increase in PT, UG numbers may represent natural expansion to course(s) introduced last year. HEIFES17 would be the 1st year, HEIFES18 represents those students plus another cohort. This would then imply similar growth next year.*
- *Could represent new relationships with different colleges – would have to look at Table 6 to check this.*