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13 October 2023

Dear [Accountable officer]

Changes to the sign-off deadline for 2022-23 Student Return

I am writing to let you know that the Office for Students (OfS) has decided to further extend the sign-off deadline for the 2022-23 Student (Data Futures) return from 3 November 2023 to **22 November 2023**.

In addition, the sign-off deadlines for two related Graduate Outcomes and National Student Survey collections have also been extended. The table below shows the previous and new deadlines for each of these returns.

Submission sign-off	Previous deadline	Revised deadline
Student (Data Futures) record (2022-23)	3 November 2023	22 November 2023
Graduate Outcomes Survey (2022-23): Cohort A contact details – for providers that have completed the Student (Data Futures) record	10 November 2023	24 November 2023
National Student Survey (NSS) contact details – for providers that have completed the Student (Data Futures) record	24 November 2023	1 December 2023

The extensions to the Graduate Outcomes Cohort A contact details collection and the 2024 National Student Survey (NSS) contact details collection apply only to providers required to complete the 2022-23 Student return – your provider is in this group if you have received this letter directly from the OfS.

As the body responsible for delivering the Data Futures programme, Jisc has been engaging with providers and monitoring progress. We are aware that providers and representative bodies have raised concerns – with the OfS and with Jisc – about submitting high quality data to the already extended deadline. We're disappointed that there continue to be delays in Jisc's deployment of the new Data Futures platform and data model and we will want to understand from Jisc in due course why firm commitments about delivery have not been met in practice. This is of particular concern to the OfS as the majority funder of the programme (£12.7 million since 2016) and because we continue to devote significant staff time to deal with the consequences of late delivery.

Jisc has committed to make fuller functionality available within the data platform as a matter of the highest priority, and has provided advice about a revised timeline for providers to submit and sign-off their Student return, as well as related surveys. Having considered Jisc's advice and the implications of a revised timeline for the OfS's use of student data in our regulatory activities, we have decided to agree to Jisc's proposal for this first year of transitioning to the new data model.

In extending these deadlines, we are recognising that this is the first year in which data will be submitted against the new data model and through the new platform developed by the Data Futures programme. We are also recognising dependencies between the Student data collection and the operation of the Graduate Outcomes and NSS surveys, where confirmation of the students that need to be invited to participate in the surveys relies on the relevant populations being accurately identified in Student data.

We appreciate the considerable efforts of your colleagues in preparing for the new return. It is important that you meet these revised deadlines as 22 November 2023 is the final sign-off date for Student data and we are unlikely to be able to accommodate further extensions unless in exceptional circumstances. We would encourage early submission of data to all three of the collections referenced in this letter, so that any issues can be identified.

The initial sign-off deadlines for these returns were set out in the Notice issued under general ongoing conditions of registration F3: Provision of information to the OfS, and F4: Provision of information to the designated data body, issued to all registered providers on 6 July 2023.¹ These extensions relate specifically to the 2022-23 Student (Data Futures), the 2021-22 Graduate Outcomes contact details and the National Student Survey (NSS) 2024 collections, and not to any other deadline included in that Notice or elsewhere. They also relate specifically to registered providers required to submit the 2022-23 Student (Data Futures) record and not to any further education and sixth form colleges required to submit the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) to the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

¹ See [Deadlines and requirements for 2023-24 data returns - Office for Students](#).

If you're concerned about your readiness to meet these or any other upcoming data collection deadlines, please talk to your OfS contact as soon as possible. More generally, if you have any questions about Data Futures, please contact liaison@hesa.ac.uk. If you have questions about this letter, please contact regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

David Smy

Deputy Director of Enabling Regulation