

Instructions for use of the covering letters relating to the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education record 2015/16 (C15018)

Whilst considered one of the least successful methods, it is permitted to send the questionnaire directly to the HE leaver via post as long as the HEP ensures that pre-paid postage is provided and data protection is followed. We would discourage HEPs from using this method due to its diminishing success rates and the requirement to follow up with the HE leaver any ineligible and incomplete responses.

HESA has provided text for the covering letters to be used with the paper/postal versions of the DLHE questionnaire. These are available in both English and Welsh. It is intended that higher education providers (HEPs) should use these as they stand, with only a small number of options:

In one or more places the text refers to the HEP - you will need to substitute the correct descriptor, or the actual name of the HEP.

In paragraph 1 you may wish to add text to the covering letter in order to address particular groups of students: e.g. for students who have continued to study at the same HEP:

We are asking everyone, even those who have continued to study at the higher education provider (HEP), what they will be doing on 12 January 2017, so that the information is comparable.

In paragraph 2 you need to indicate, as appropriate, supply of either a pre-paid envelope or label (HESA is aware of different HEP practice).

Paragraph 3 is optional; it is needed only if your HEP will be offering a locally-hosted online version of the questionnaire, or has registered to the centrally-hosted online DLHE system. You will need to add the appropriate web-reference to this paragraph and also indicate where the student can find their HUSID/Student Identifier.

Paragraph 4 is also optional; if you choose to include this sentence about alternative methods of accessing the survey, please refer to the 'Survey accessibility' section of the DLHE Methodology for guidance and insert appropriate text.

The Data Protection Act 1998 requires data subjects to be informed of what happens to their data within a collection notice. Collection notices about the uses of HESA data are included with the covering letters and are available in both English and Welsh. In addition, your HEP needs to include its own wording about the use it makes of the data. HESA strongly recommends that you compose the wording for this section to protect your own legal position.

The final paragraph refers to the careers service, if this is not the correct description of this function for your HEP you will need to change it. Also HEPs can add their own description of services available to graduates, as these are very varied.