

74808 ON-ENTRY DATA
CONSULTATION
RESPONSES

HESA



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SUMMARY OF 74808 ON-ENTRY DATA CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The consultation around how on-entry data might be returned opened on 8 January 2020 and closed on 5 February 2020. In total we received 82 responses to the consultation, 80 from providers and 2 from other organisations (both software suppliers). This paper summarises the responses we received and where relevant makes HESA's recommendations based on the results.

The table below shows a breakdown of the responses received, providers split by country and also other organisations.

Country	Responses (%)
England	76%
Scotland	15%
Wales	6%
Northern Ireland	2%
Software suppliers	2%

QUESTION 4: WHICH OPTION WOULD YOU PREFER FOR THE RETURN OF ON-ENTRY DATA?

Responses	% of total responses
Option A: Pulling on-entry data forward	51%
Option B: Restating on-entry data every time	38%
No preference	11%

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR YOUR CHOICE?

Respondents who wanted to continue pulling forward the on-entry data generally felt this fitted the data they were returning, as it is relevant to the start of a student's engagement with them. However, they also wanted to make sure that data could still be updated in later reference periods, in case they needed to amend the data. Many stated that this is the way their systems are currently set up to return this data and therefore they would like to keep it that way.

Other comments were around this option supporting timely and robust data collection at the point of entry, the difficulty of maintaining the quality of this data over time, particularly if the same data is being repeated every time. Revisiting the same quality rules every reference period wasn't felt to be efficient. Many considered it to be more burdensome to submit the same data every reference period.

Respondents who wanted to restate on-entry data every time generally stated that their systems were set up to easily be able to pull this data out for every return. Many felt it was easier to send everything all the time, rather than implementing a new process to identify when and where data has been updated (and therefore knowing they should send it to HESA in option A). Therefore, respondents felt this was an easier and simpler way of returning this data.

Concerns were also raised around whether they will be able to get good enough data quality for the first reference period and therefore wanted to send a 'not yet available' code and then update it later, perhaps when the student adds missing qualifications or makes updates to them.

QUESTION 5: IF OPTION B IS IMPLEMENTED, WOULD YOU PREFER TO KEEP THE NEW ENTRY PROFILE ENTITY OR MOVE THE FIELD INTO THE ENGAGEMENT ENTITY?

Responses	% of total responses
Keep the new Entry Profile entity	54%
Move the on-entry fields into the Engagement entity	18%
No preference	28%

PLEASE EXPLAIN THE REASON FOR YOUR CHOSEN OPTION.

Most respondents wanted to keep the Entry Profile entity and the reasons were all very similar. It would help keep the different data separate and will make it very clear to everyone (including those not directly involved in HESA returns) that this data is not expected to be updated during a student's engagement. It might help when returning the data to keep it separated for processes within providers and for managing it on software systems. Many acknowledged that logically the data is no different to other data on the engagement entity and that the only difference would be the frequency of expected updates, but still providers preferred to keep the two separated.

The respondents who wanted to combine the on-entry fields with the engagement entity mostly stated that this was more logical if both sets of data needed to be returned every reference period and they couldn't see a reason to keep the two entities separate. Some stated that this would be simpler, easier and would remove unnecessary entities.

QUESTION 6: DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

For those respondents who supported option A, comments were around not expecting the entry data to change and therefore providers not seeing any advantages of changing the current methodology of returning entry profile data. Providers raised questions about the level of entry qualification data needed in the first reference period – we will be taking these points to Statutory Customers for further discussion.

For those respondents who supported option B, comments were around the quality assurance processes and also around the nature of these type of data changing during a student's engagement with a provider.

A question was asked about why Entry Qualification Subject was a child of the Entry Qualification Award. This is a consequence of bringing together different requirements around entry qualifications; level 3 qualifications only require one subject to be returned, whereas the Student record field PGCESBJ equivalent requires up to five subjects to be returned.

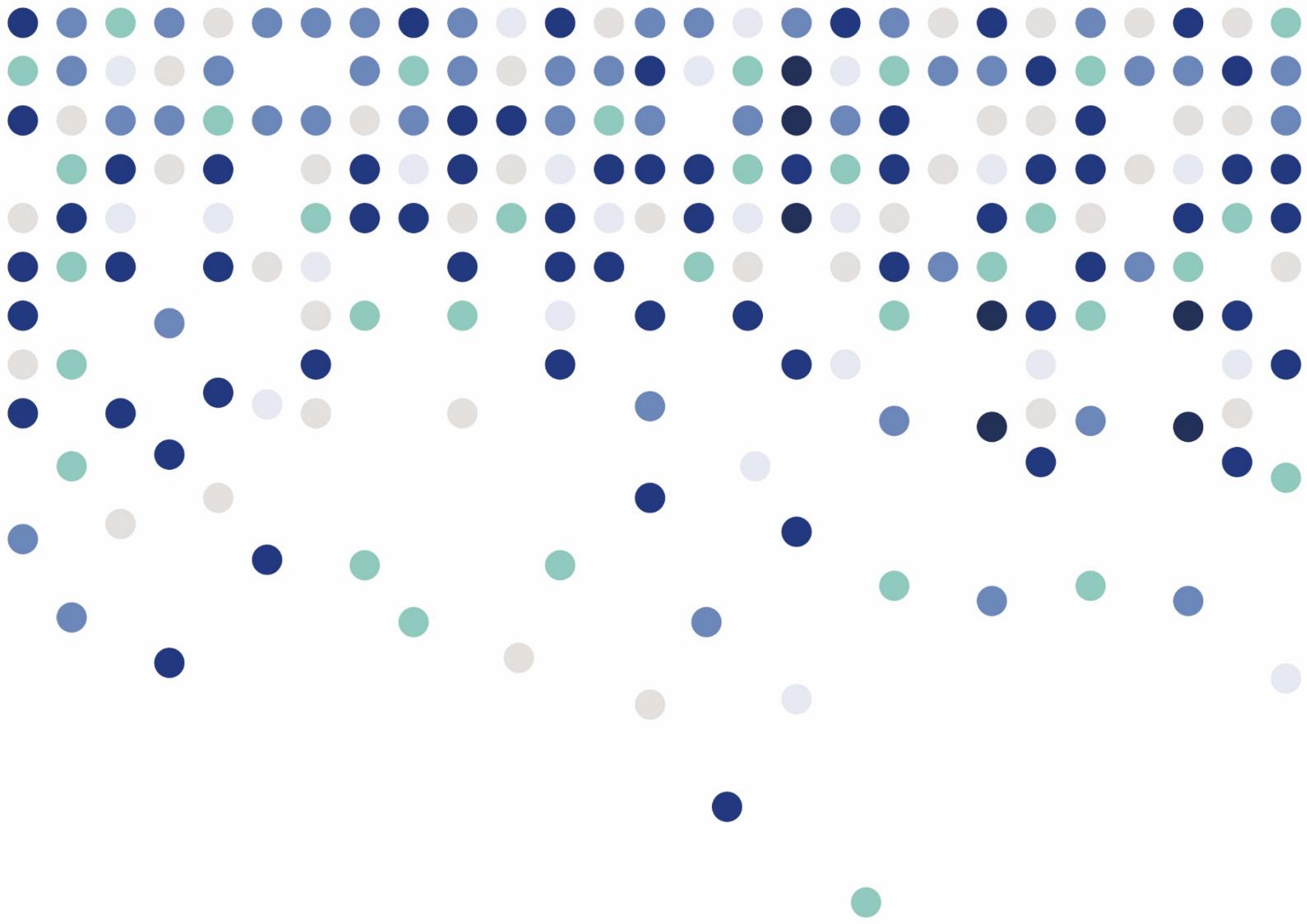
Further questions were raised about specific fields in the proposal – including Religious Background, Dependent, Permanent address and Postcode fields.

The UCAS *J file was mentioned by a few providers and a request to have this earlier in order to meet the first reference period deadlines. Or if it wasn't possible to have the *J file earlier, to be given more time to get the qualifications on entry data verified themselves.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Entry Profile data will be kept as a separate entity within the specification (sitting under Engagement or Student Registration, depending on the outcome of the 74719 consultation).

Providers will return on-entry data in the first reference period that the student starts. This only needs to be sent again if corrections or additions need to be made, but it is not expected. However, if providers did want to keep sending this data, it would always be overwritten in HESA's systems. Where the on-entry data is resubmitted, validation would highlight where any changes had been made, and bring this to the provider's attention.



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