# C17051 ANNUAL UPDATE

## SUMMARY OF THE 2017/18 HESA STUDENT RECORD CONSULTATION RESPONSES

HESA

On 13 December 2016, we issued a consultation for the proposed changes for the 2016/17 annual update of the Student record (C17051). This annual review intends to address the needs and desires of all stakeholders to make improvements to the record. In configuring the proposals we were aware that the Data Futures programme will be implemented for the 2019/20 collection. Therefore, we have tried to reduce the number of changes with the knowledge that major changes to the record will get carried forward in line with this.

We received 84 responses to the consultation – 80 of the respondents were received from institutional colleagues from higher education providers, the remaining 4 were from software suppliers. We would like to thank all the respondents for the time they took to complete the consultation. Your comments were both helpful and insightful.

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## PROPOSED ITEMS TO BE REMOVED

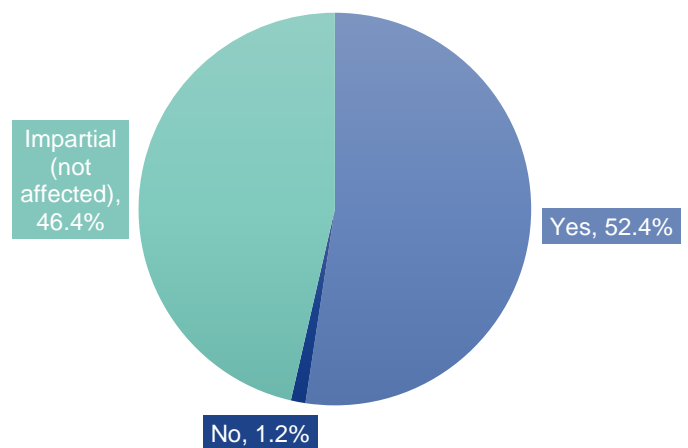### Remove Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE)

As this information is no longer collected by the NCTL, they have approved that it can be removed from the Student record.
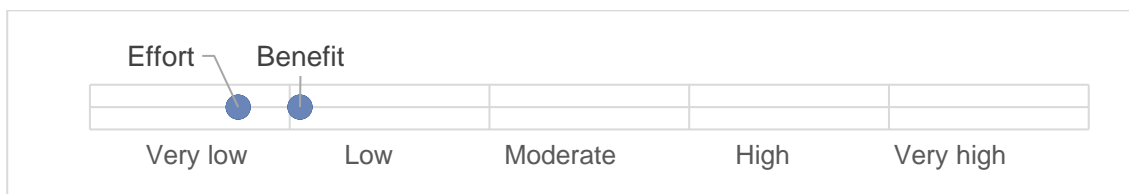
This change will have the following impacts:

TTCID - Removal of code F
REDUCEDC - Removal of code 07
REDUCEDI - Removal of code 07
COURSEAIM - Removal from guidance
SKEUNITS - Removal of field
SKEOS - Removal of field
SBJCA - Removal from guidance.

**Do you support the removal of the above valid entries?**

Just over half of the respondents support the removal of this entry, with most other providers impartial as this entry does not affect them.

Impartial (not affected), 46.4%

Yes, 52.4%

No, 1.2%

**What would be the impact of making this change?**

Effect — Benefit

Very low    Low    Moderate    High    Very high

Respondents were asked to rank from a scale of very low to very high the benefit and effort the change would cause. This allows us to understand the impact of making a change. The diagram above represents the average of the responses received from each question regarding the benefit and effort involved in removing the valid entries. The diagram shows that there is low benefit but very low effort in removing the entry, so the benefit does still outweigh the effort slightly.

**Please provide more information following your response above.**

From the responses given, 13 respondents gave feedback to state they are in favour of the removal of SKE from the coverage in the Student record. Reasons for this are that it either reduces the burden or it would not affect them. There were two respondents who were concerned about the continuity issues and one who required further information on the changes to the guidance.

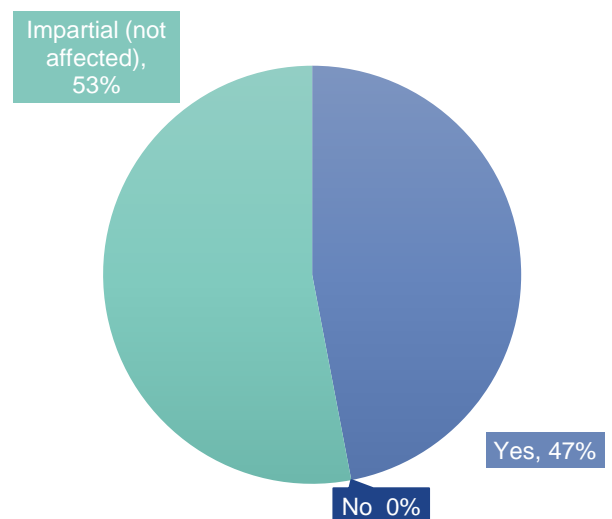**Do you have any further comments about this proposal?**

Ten respondents gave further comments about the removal of SKE. Of these, five stated that this would have either little, or no effect. Two respondents voiced that they would like clear communication from HESA on how SKE students will be reported to the NCTL going forward. Two requested further information on how it affects course aim.

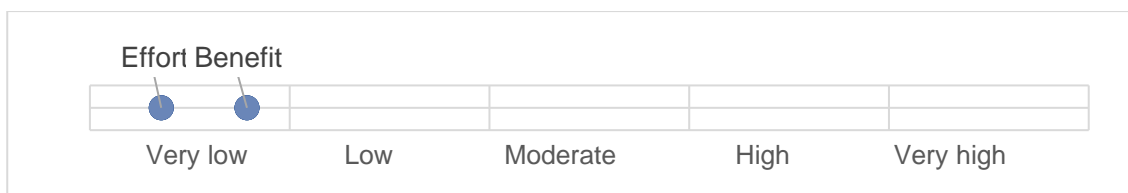### Removal of code 04 and 06 in Qualification Class (CLASS)

We have undergone investigations into code 04 (Undivided Second Class Honours) and 06 (Fourth Class Honours) and can confirm that providers no longer use these codes, and therefore they will both be removed.

**Do you support the removal of this valid entry?**

Just under half of the respondents to this question support the removal of this valid entry. There are no providers against the removal, and just over half are impartial to change as it does not affect them.

Impartial (not affected), 53%

Yes, 47%

No 0%

**What would be the impact of making this change?**

Effort Benefit

| Very low | Low | Moderate | High | Very high |

There is both very low effort and benefit involved in removing the codes from the responses given, but the benefit weighs higher than the effort.

**Please provide more information following your response above.**

All 17 respondents who gave further comments expressed their full agreement with the removal of these codes.

**Do you have any further comments about this proposal?**

One respondent commented that the removal of these codes could be brought in line with the ITT record (PGCECLSS code 06 and 04). Otherwise, there were no further comments which were negative.
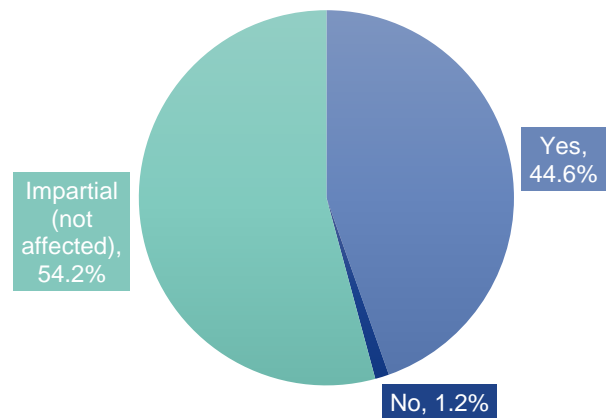
### Removal of D01 from COURSEAIM and QUAL

D01 – New Route PhD that meets the criteria for a research-based higher degree is a scheme which providers do not offer anymore.

Providers will be advised that D00 code can be used as a replacement to this for COURSEAIM and QUAL.

**Do you support the removal of the above valid entries?**

Just under half of the respondents support the removal of this code, while most are impartial as they are unaffected by this code. Only one provider was against this change.

Impartial (not affected), 54.2%

Yes, 44.6%

No, 1.2%

**What would be the impact of making this change?**

Effort  Benefit

Very low    Low    Moderate    High    Very high
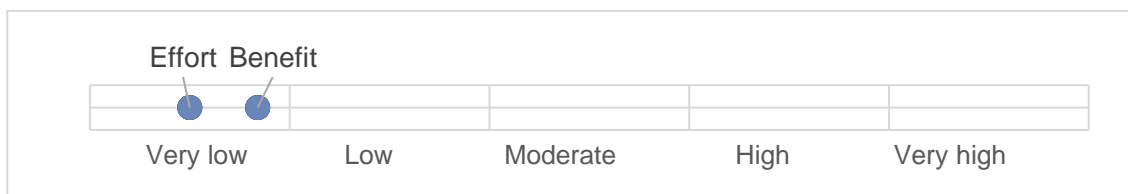
The removal of this code would be of both very low effort and benefit for respondents, but the benefit would outweigh the effort.

**Please provide more information following your response above.**

Only one respondent had an issue with the proposal of removing D01. The reason for this is that they currently use the code for a small number of programmes therefore resulting in some reconciliation issues for continuing students. 16 other providers also gave further information, but simply stated that they either agree with the proposal, or are not affected by it

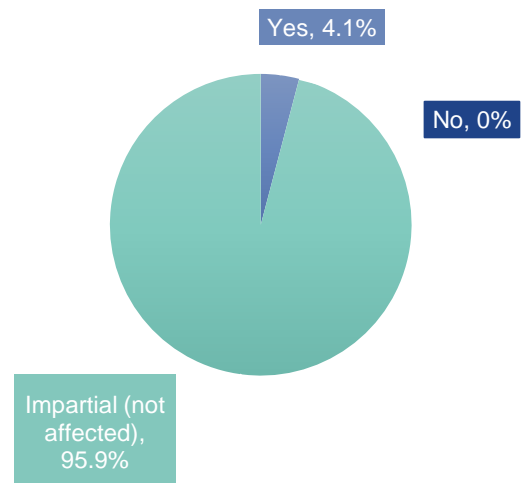**Do you have any further comments about this proposal?**

There were no further comments to this proposal.

## Removal of INITIATIVE code 09 – European Social Fund (ESF) – Foundation Degree
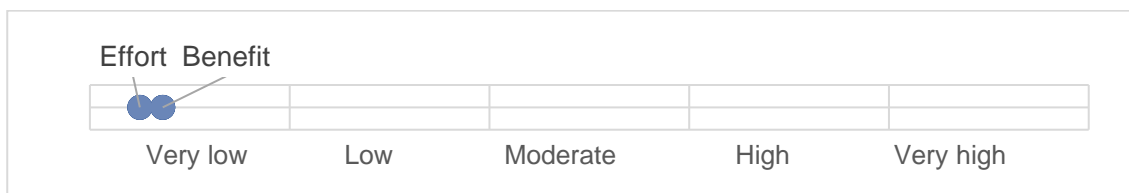
HEFCW have stated that they no longer require this to be returned for Welsh providers.

**Do you support the removal of this valid entry?**

A small number of respondents support the removal of this code, while the remainder state they are unaffected by this change. There are no respondents against the removal of it.



Yes, 4.1%

No, 0%

Impartial (not affected), 95.9%

**What would be the impact of making this change?**



Effort  Benefit

Very low    Low    Moderate    High    Very high

The effort and benefit of removing this code is very low, however the benefit marginally outweighs the effort.

**Please provide more information following your response above.**

All seven respondents who responded simply stated the change would not affect them.

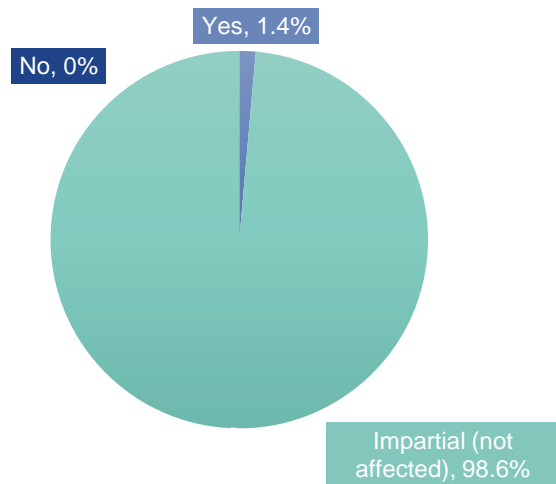**Do you have any further comments about this proposal?**

We received no further comments on this proposal.

## Removal of INITIATIVE scheme 07 – Universities Heads of the Valleys Institute (UHOVI)
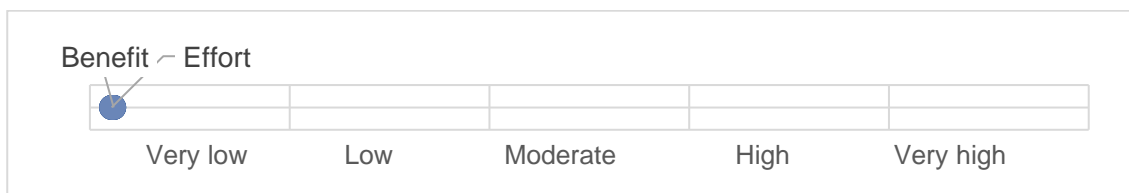
This valid entry in INITIATIVE is no longer required as the initiative is no longer running.

**Do you support the removal of this valid entry?**

Only one respondent is in favour of removing this valid entry, while all others stated that they are impartial as it does not affect them.

Yes, 1.4%

No, 0%

Impartial (not affected), 98.6%

**What would be the impact of making this change?**

Benefit ⌐ Effort

| Very low | Low | Moderate | High | Very high |

There would be very low effort and benefit in removing this valid entry.

**Please provide more information following your response above?**

Five respondents responded to this question stating that the change did not affect them.

**Do you have any further comments about this proposal?**

We received no further comments on this proposal.

## COVERAGE STATEMENTS

### Changes to the Coverage Statement for COURSEAIM and QUAL M73 – Postgraduate Diploma in Education.
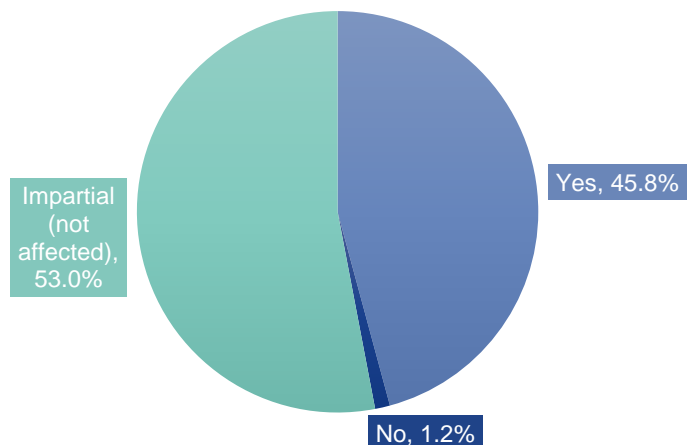
A new COURSEAIM and QUAL have been added to the 2016/17 Student collection: M73 Postgraduate Diploma in Education.

For C17051, the field requirements for this field will be brought into line with the requirements for M71: Postgraduate Certificate in Education or Professional Graduate Diploma in Education. This will involve changes to the coverage statements for the following fields and entities:

Fee regime indicator (FEEREGIME)
Research Council Student (RCSTDNT)
Gross Fee (GROSSFEE)
Location identifier (LOCATION)
Net fee (NETFEE)Student Support Eligibility (SSELIG)
Teacher Reference Number (TREFNO)
PGCE class of undergraduate degree (PGCECLSS)
PGCE subject of undergraduate degree (PGCESBJ)
Financial support (FINAMOUNT and FINTYPE)

**Do you support the update to the coverage for M73?**

Just over half of the respondents support the update to coverage, with most other providers impartial as this entry does not affect them.

Impartial (not affected), 53.0%

Yes, 45.8%

No, 1.2%

**What would be the impact of making this change?**

Effort – Benefit

Very low    Low    Moderate    High    Very high

The diagram above shows that there is both low effort and benefit in updating the coverage, however the benefit does still outweigh the effort slightly.

**Please provide more information following your response above?**

Most the respondents were in favour of widening the coverage for M73 - Postgraduate Diploma in Education. Of the 21 responses, ten welcomed the change, stating that the impact of the proposal would be low and seven respondents stated they are not affected. One provider was concerned about the impact of this change on GROSSFEE and NETFEE. In addition, one respondent would like specific guidance put in place in the relevant fields.

**Do you have any further comments about this proposal?**

Two respondents commented that this would not have a large impact on their provision. Three providers had concerns with regards to the difference between M73 Postgraduate Diploma in Education and M71 Postgraduate Certificate in Education or Professional Graduate Diploma in Education.
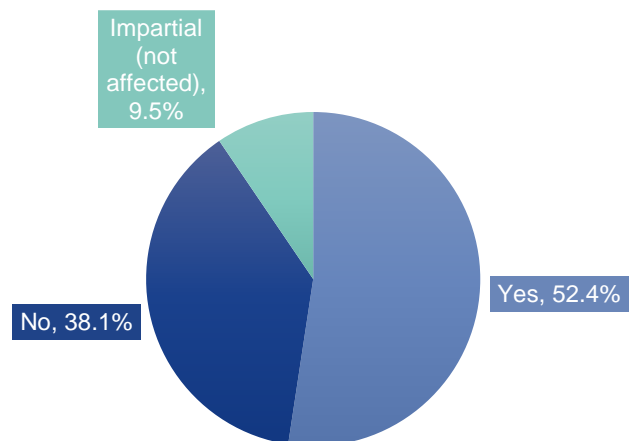
### To make the return of Religion or Belief (RELBLF) compulsory for all providers

We have been advised by Statutory Customers to make this field compulsory since they advise that there is an increasing demand for information on the religion/faith of higher education students. At present, the field is voluntary to return.

There is an option for information refused.

**Do you support the update to the coverage for RELBLF?**

Over half of respondents supported making the return of religion or belief mandatory, however a significant minority did not. Just under 10% are unaffected by this update.

Impartial (not affected), 9.5%

No, 38.1%

Yes, 52.4%

**What would be the impact of making this change?**

| Benefit | Effort |
| --- | --- |

Very low | Low | Moderate | High | Very high

The benefit of making this field mandatory is low, while the effort is moderate, making the effort outweigh the benefit.

**Please provide more information following your response above.**

60 respondents gave further information on the proposed change of coverage to the RELBLF field. Of these, around half gave expressions of agreement with the proposal, while some providers explained they already collect this data. Four respondents agree that the collection of this data is integral for monitoring parity between higher education and the national population.

18 respondents expressed some reservations about the proposal. Concerns centred around the difficulty of the collection in the first year and participation rates being low. Ten respondents emphasised that the information refused field would need to be retained with the addition of an 'Unknown' field.

12 respondents expressed their disagreement with the proposal.

Providers raised several questions including: the necessity of recording this data, how it relates to education, and the onward use of this data by the sector and 3rd parties. Several respondents were concerned by the level of effort involved with the collection of the data and could not see how the benefit would outweigh this.

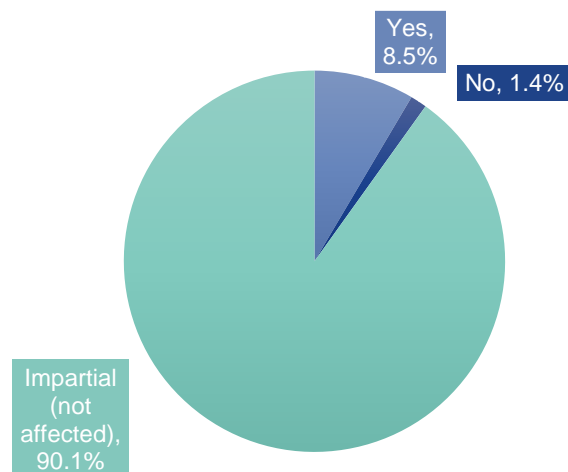**Do you have any further comments about this proposal?**

There were many questions raised on the proposed changes. For example, several respondents are concerned with the onward use of the data. There were also comments regarding stating there were likely to be high return rates for the first year for 'information refused' and a 'not known' code. Respondents who did not agree with the proposal questioned the intentions of making the question mandatory and requested further, specific, and directional information before they would be in agreement.
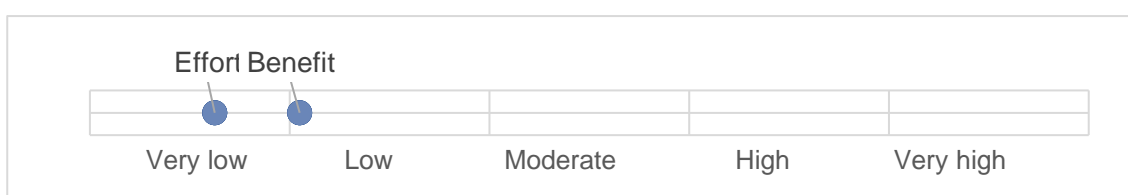
## FEEREGIME – compulsory for Scottish providers

The Scottish Funding Council require this data to monitor the numbers of 'Rest of UK' students who are paying deregulated fees.

**Do you support the update to the coverage for FEEREGIME?**

A small amount of respondents support making this field mandatory; only one provider is against. Most providers would be unaffected by this change.

Yes, 8.5%

No, 1.4%

Impartial (not affected), 90.1%

**What would be the impact of making this change?**

Effort Benefit

Very low    Low    Moderate    High    Very high

Making this field mandatory for Scottish providers would be of very low effort and low benefit, making the benefit outweigh the cost.

**Please provide more information following your response above.**

From the 13 responses to this question, four providers welcome the change. One respondent questioned whether the coverage would remain the same but just be made mandatory (which is the intention), and if GROSSFEE, NETFEE and SSN would need to be returned. The remaining respondents stated they would not be affected by the changes.
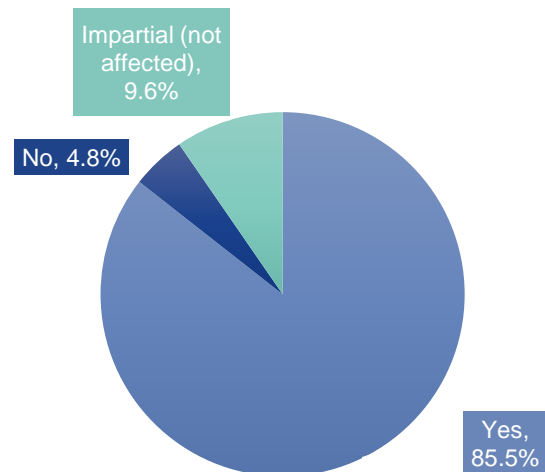
**Do you have any further comments about this proposal?**

One provider asked for consideration to be given when reviewing validation when a student switches to part time.

### Removal of FEEREGIME from the coverage for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland

The English, Welsh and Northern Irish funding councils have expressed that they no longer require this field to be returned for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Consequently we are proposing to remove these countries from the coverage.

**Do you support the update to the coverage for FEEREGIME?**

Most providers support the removal of this field from coverage. A small amount of providers are impartial to this change as they are not affected, while a smaller amount do not support the removal.



Impartial (not affected), 9.6%
No, 4.8%
Yes, 85.5%

**What would be the impact of making this change?**



Effort — Low
Benefit — Moderate

Very low    Low    Moderate    High    Very high

This change would be low effort to implement, but of moderate benefit, so the benefit outweighs the effort.

**Please provide more information following your response above?**

We received 35 comments to this question. Two-thirds of these comments supported the removal of FEEREGIME, as the field is no longer necessary but it takes considerable effort to collect the data for it. Just under a third of comments disagreed with the removal of FEEREGIME to the coverage. Reasons for this included the use of the statistics from an internal point of view, changes to the GROSSFEE and NETFEE fields, and that they still have some pre-2012 regime students. Three respondents commented that the benefits would be low compared to the effort of removal.

**Do you have any further comments about this proposal?**

Eight responses were given to this question. Two providers were concerned that the removal of this was too soon and that it is useful from an institutional level. Two providers added that they would have to increase their efforts to report GROSSFEE and NETFEE for students who were pre-2012 regime. The four remaining providers had no further comments.
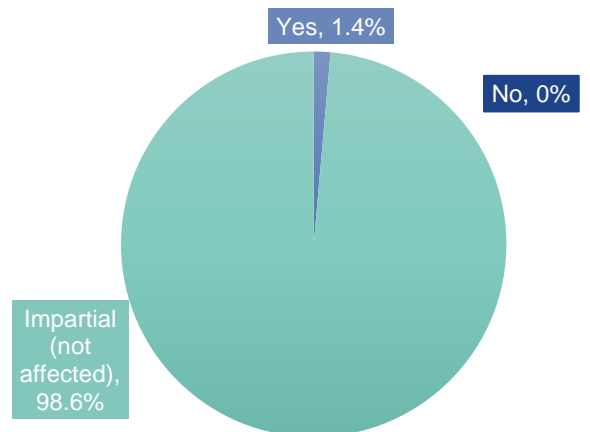
## NEW VALID ENTRIES

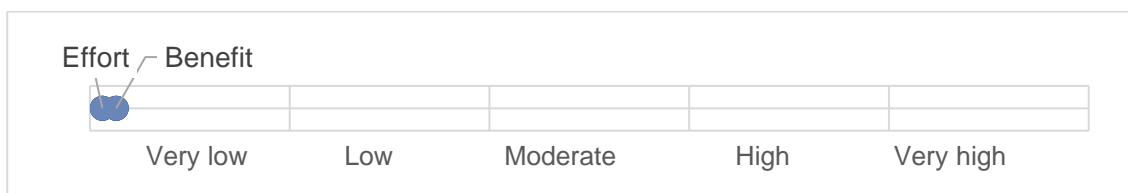### New valid entries in MARSTAT for providers in Northern Ireland

To improve the quality of the data returned under this field, we are adding two new entries for the field: **'Unknown'** and **'Information Refused'**

**Do you support the addition of the two new entries for MARSTAT?**

Most providers are impartial as they are not affected by this change. There is one provider in support and none against.



Yes, 1.4%
No, 0%
Impartial (not affected), 98.6%

**What would be the impact of making this change?**



Effort — Benefit

| Very low | Low | Moderate | High | Very high |

The benefit and effort of adding the two new entries would both be very low for providers.

**Please provide more information following your response above?**

One respondent said the change would be "very" useful as the absence of a 'Not know' option creates problems in collecting accurate data.

**Do you have any further comments about this proposal?**

We received no further comments on this proposal.
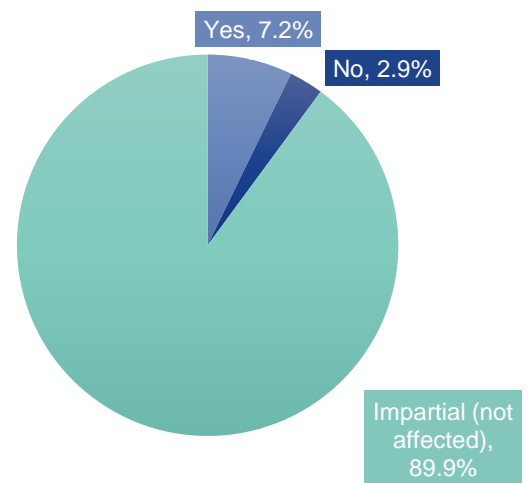
## NEW FIELDS

### Addition of a new field for Northern Ireland and Scotland – Carer

The addition of a new field CARER aims to capture the number of carers who are studying at Scottish or Northern Irish universities. This field records whether a student cares for a friend or family member who cannot cope without their support due to illness, disability, mental health, or addiction.
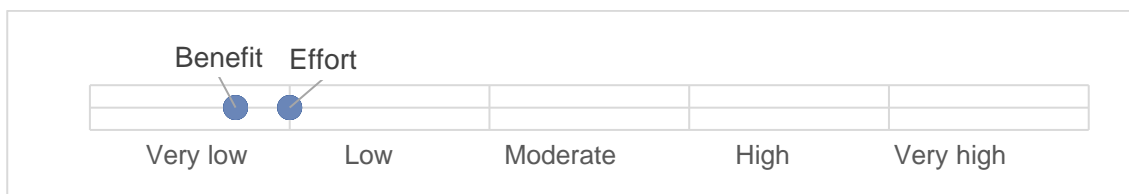
We are discussing with UCAS whether this could be collected through their UCAS form.

**Do you support the addition of this new field?**

A small number of providers support the addition of this field, while fewer providers are against this addition. Most providers are impartial as this change does not affect them.

Yes, 7.2%

No, 2.9%

Impartial (not affected), 89.9%

**What would be the impact of making this change?**

Benefit   Effort

| Very low | Low | Moderate | High | Very high |

Adding a new field would be of very low effort and benefit to providers, however the effort slightly outweighs the benefit.

**Please provide more information following your response above.**

Ten respondents gave further information. One provider already captures this information on their system, while another respondent stated they would be reliant on their software provider making this change. Four respondents requested further information before they can express support. Three respondents are concerned about the level of effort involved with collecting this information with one provider stating it is now too late to collect it. One respondent needs clarification on how it differs from SDPEND - Dependants in reporting year.

**Do you have any further comments about this proposal?**

From the six responses given, three were content with the changes but required further clarification on both who is in the coverage, and how it differs from SDPEND. One respondent is unsure why a new field is being added prior to the new data landscape being developed. Two providers had no further comments.

## GENERAL COMMENTS

As a feature of the more open and interactive approach we are taking for annual updates to records, we now routinely ask respondents to comment or advise on what HESA should do to improve the Student record. Below is a selection of responses.

**If you have any other suggestions for change to improve the Student record, please note these below. This could include any areas you are currently experiencing difficulties with.**

We received various responses to this questions. Some of which included:

- Review of COLPROV – the amount of work is disproportionate to the number of students involved
- Introduction of a new COURSEAIM – MFA – Master of Fine Arts
- Further guidance needed on the difference between M71 and M73 in COURSEAIM
- An introduction of 'Own Module ID' which operates to a similar manner with OWNCOURSEID
- To provide outputs with non-continuation flags
- Transparency in old Minerva query responses
- Difficulties around reporting and the validation around Term Time Accommodation.

**If you have any other comments relating to this annual update, please note these below.**

Respondents gave a variety of different answers to this question. Two people questioned whether the changes were justified given the parallel development of the Data Futures programme. It was mentioned that the survey could have been presented better according to which questions are applicable to which provider. One provider would have appreciated the consultation to have been released earlier to allow for design and implementation of the proposed changes.

We will consider all the issues raised here, and where possible they will lead to improvements in how we support providers.