

Summary of December 2012 business of the Performance Indicators Technical Group

Business of the Performance Indicators Technical Group was undertaken electronically during December 2012.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

1.1. All members who provided a response accepted the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting, subject to a minor amendment at paragraph 4.7 and to the addition of two footnotes offering clarifications which became available following the meeting.

ACTION: HESA to publish the June 2012 PITG minutes on their website alongside the PIs and related content.

2. Technical business to agree by correspondence

2.1. The Performance Indicators Steering Group had agreed in November 2012 to delegate authority to the Chair of the PISG in respect of the items discussed below.

2.2. A technical change was proposed which would mean that the employment PIs published in 2013 would be defined on the basis of a new DLHE population. The change was explained in paper PITG12/06.

2.2.1. All PITG members who provided a response supported the move to the new standard DLHE population, XPDLHE02.

2.2.2. Members noted that the move would align the “positive” outcomes from continuation with the population that we measure the destinations of. This alignment was felt to be important as it removes a potential loophole whereby a good continuation outcome was not judged in terms of future prospects.

2.2.3. The PITG also reiterated the need to reference and explain (as far as possible) the impact of the changes within the 2013 publication of the employment indicators. An indication of the impact of the change at an institutional level should be provided to the PITG when 2011-12 data became available, particularly in respect of concentration in institutions of the newly included other undergraduate qualifications in table 1.

ACTION: The PITG to recommend to the PISG that the employment PIs published in 2013 be defined on the basis of the new standard DLHE population, XPDLHE02, and that the 2013 publication of the employment PIs include a reference to this change.

ACTION: HESA to provide analysis to the PITG of the impact of the change in the DLHE population at an institutional level when data are available.

2.3. An approach to outlining known issues relating to the WP indicators for institutions in Scotland had been developed by HESA in response to section 3 of the June 2012 PITG minutes. The proposal was described in paper PITG 12/07.

2.3.1. All PITG members who provided a response supported the provision of a reference to the known issues relating to the WP indicators for institutions in Scotland and for signposting the equivalent SFC publication. However, all

respondents also expressed concerns regarding the inclusion of the suggested link to the SFC's publication.

2.3.2. In particular, PITG members expressed concerns about the detail of the web page that was proposed to link to, on account of the proposed web page containing an alternative presentation of an NS-SEC indicator, and openly criticising the PIs and their methodology in this respect. The PITG noted that the PIs already contained this measure and that it was not clear why the restriction to those domiciled in the home nation was necessary or fair to the rest of the UK. It was suggested that if the restriction had value, because more affluent students were more prone to move, then this was something that should be considered for the PIs. PITG members were clear that they had no objections to linking to the datazone-based data on account that this was simply looking at a different geography to POLAR.

2.3.3. Members agreed that the recommendation presented in paper PITG 12/07 could not be accepted in its current form. They would accept a modified recommendation that provided an alternative, direct link to the publication of the datazones-based data (rather than to the summary page).

ACTION: The PITG to recommend to the PISG that the wording proposed by HESA in paper PITG 12/07 be included in the 2013 publication of the PIs, subject to the removal of the current proposed link and its replacement with a direct link to the publication of the datazones-based data (rather than to the summary page).

Date of the next meeting

The PITG will next meet on Thursday 28 February 2013.