

Cylchlythyr | Circular

Publication of data: 2012 National Student Survey and development of the new official Unistats web-site

Date: 07 June 2012
Reference: W12/20HE
To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales
Principals of directly-funded further education colleges in Wales
Response by: No response required
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This circular provides information to universities and colleges on the next steps in the 2012 National Student Survey (NSS) process, including a timetable of when you will be able to access your 2012 NSS results via the Ipsos MORI NSS results site and Unistats web-site. No action is required in response.

If you require this document in an alternative accessible format, please telephone us on (029) 2068 2225 or email info@hefcw.ac.uk.



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Introduction

1. This circular provides information to universities and colleges on the next steps in the 2012 National Student Survey (NSS) process, including a timetable of when you will be able to access your 2012 NSS results via the Ipsos MORI NSS results site and Unistats web-site. No action is required in response.
2. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work on the 2012 NSS. Ipsos MORI surveyed over 286,000 students from a sample size of over 427,000. This represents an overall response rate for the NSS 2012 of 67 per cent, a record for the survey in its eight years of existence.

Publication of the 2012 NSS results: Ipsos MORI/NSS results site

3. On **3 August** Ipsos MORI will launch Phase 1 of the NSS results site (www.ipsos-mori.com/nss/results). Phase 1 will present institutions' own detailed NSS data and can only be viewed by the institution concerned. This gives each institution early sight of its data. The agreed NSS contact at each institution will be sent further details closer to the time about how to access the data. On **31 August** Ipsos MORI will make available, on the NSS results site, institutions' detailed students' comments.
4. On **17 September** Ipsos MORI will launch Phase 2 of the NSS results site. This will include all institutions' comparable data and the custom analysis functionality. The custom analysis function gives each institution the freedom to analyse tailored results for specific cohorts of their own students, as well as publicly available data for all participating institutions. All pre-calculated data tables will be available in Phase 2 at institution, subject and sector level. Sector-wide comparisons will also be available from this date.

Publication of the 2012 NSS results: new Unistats site

5. While the Key Information Set (KIS) was being developed last year, it was indicated that each full KIS would sit on the course pages of universities and colleges. However, this policy has since been revised, and all KIS data will instead be available on the new Unistats web-site from late September 2012 (see circular [W11/33HE: Key Information Sets: further information and request for feedback on technical guidance](#)). For some time the full NSS data has been published annually on the existing Unistats web-site and this will continue on its new site.
6. From **17 September** there will be a week's preview period on the new Unistats web-site where institutions will have access to all institutions' data

for the NSS, KIS and Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE). This is later than in previous years, where institutions have had access to institutions' comparative NSS data from early August, as the timing has been changed to bring it in line with the launch of the new Unistats web-site. There should be benefits brought by the enhanced information, attractiveness and functionality of the new site.

7. In the week commencing **24 September**, the Unistats web-site will be available for public access. There is likely to be a launch and press statements from the funding bodies. We will write to the sector with a confirmed date in due course.

Further information

8. As part of the preparations for KIS, when your institution submits KIS data to HEFCE from mid-July you will receive by return a spreadsheet showing that data, as well as NSS data for all courses for which you submitted KIS data. However, as stated in paragraph 3, you will not be able to access NSS results in the usual format until 3 August.
9. If you have any queries regarding the NSS, please contact Ipsos MORI (tel 0208 861 8110, e-mail nss@ipsos.com). For KIS queries from HEFCW-funded HEIs contact HESA (liaison@hesa.ac.uk, tel 01242 211144) and for KIS queries from directly funded further education institutions, contact elizabeth.heal@hefcw.ac.uk.

Summary timetable

10. A summary timetable is provided below

| | NSS results site | New Unistats site |
|----------------|---|-------------------|
| 3 August 2012 | Phase 1 NSS data available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • institution's own data at the publication threshold of 50% response rate and 23 responses (whichever is the larger), at overall institution level and JACS subject levels • Institutions' own detailed data at the lower publication threshold (for internal use). | |
| 31 August 2012 | Institutions' own students' open comments available | |

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|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 17 September 2012 | Phase 2 NSS data available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sector JACS subject data • custom analysis tool | Preview of full Unistats site including all institutions' NSS, DLHE and KIS data |
| w/c 24 September 2012 | | New Unistats web-site available to the public |

Further information / responses to

11. For further information, contact Dr Cliona O'Neill (tel 029 2068 2283; email cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk).