

Cylchlythyr | Circular

Publication of the 2013 National Student Survey data, and funding the 2014/15 Survey

Date: 14 June 2013
Reference: W13/22HE
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 higher and further education institutions on the next steps in the 2013 National Student Survey (NSS) process, including a timetable for when they will be able to access their 2013 NSS results via the Ipsos MORI NSS results site and Unistats website. It also provides information on the cost of the NSS to higher education institutions from 2014/15.

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 higher and further education institutions on the next steps in the 2013 National Student Survey (NSS) process, including a timetable for when they will be able to access their 2013 NSS results via the Ipsos MORI NSS results site and Unistats website. It also provides information on the cost of the NSS to higher education institutions from 2014/15.

The 2013 NSS

2. We would like to thank you for your hard work on the 2013 NSS. This year's response rate is the highest overall since the NSS was launched in 2005, reaching over 68.6% for the UK as a whole (compared to 67% last year).
3. On **1 August** Ipsos MORI will launch Phase 1 of the NSS results dissemination 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 **15 August** Ipsos MORI will make available, on the NSS results site, institutions' detailed students' comments.
4. On **29 August** 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 opportunity to analyse tailored results for specific groups 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. **This information is subject to strict embargo until it is made publically available on 19 September 2013.**

Publication of the 2013 NSS results on Unistats

5. In September 2013, Unistats will undergo an annual update in order to display course data submitted by institutions for 2014/15. As part of this, full NSS data for 2013 will be published on the Unistats website together with the updated Key Information Set (KIS) data.
6. As part of the preparation for updating the Unistats site, when institutions submit their annual KIS return to either HEFCE (FECs) or HESA (HEIs) they will, from mid-July onwards, receive a report showing the Unistats

data, including NSS results, that is to be published for all of the courses for which they have submitted a KIS record.

7. From **12 September** there will be a week's preview on Unistats when institutions will have access to all institutions' data for the NSS, KIS and Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE).
8. On **19 September** 2013 the Unistats website will be available for public access.

NSS costs from 2014/15

9. In [circular W13/14HE](#) we reported that due to the changes to HE fees and funding from 2012/13, a large proportion of HEFCW's funding is being paid out as fee grants. We notified FEIs that from 2014/15 they would need to take on the cost of their participation in the NSS for their directly funded HE in FE provision. We noted that the NSS for franchise provision would continue to be coordinated by the franchising HEI.
10. Circular W13/14HE also reported that we were in discussion with Higher Education Wales about HEIs taking on the cost of their participation in the NSS from 2014/15. This will follow the model used in Scotland, where institutions pay the costs of participating in the NSS, and the funding council pays costs related to Unistats and other pieces of core work. This will apply from 2014/15 for the 2015 NSS.
11. The costs for which institutions will need to take responsibility will include a fixed element to cover the operation of the NSS and the results site, and a variable figure to take account of the response rate and the numbers of students responding via each method. The final cost of participating in the survey is calculated by the number of responses received by each institution.
12. An example of the costs for the 2013 survey is provided below in order to enable you to calculate an approximation of the likely costs for your institution. Please note that these costs are likely to change due to the operation of a new NSS contract in 2014/15, and therefore both the fixed element and the costs of the variable elements are subject to change. HEFCE will invoice you for the cost of the survey to your institution.
13. Institutions have a statutory responsibility to help safeguard against discrimination and promote equality. We expect institutions to continue participating in the NSS, to ensure that the views of the diverse student body are represented.

| | Cost per Unit | | |
|--|----------------------|---|----------|
| Fixed cost | £ 4,680 | 1 | £ 4,680 |
| Total number of online responses | £ 1.10 | | £ |
| Total postal questionnaires issued (including reminders) | £ 1.04 | | £ |
| Total postal questionnaires processed | £ 2.10 | | £ |
| Total telephone interviews | £ 9.20 | | £ |
| Data entry and open comments editing/anonymising | £ 0.26 | | £ |
| Total SMS reminders | £ 0.11 | | £ |
| Bank of questions | £ 260 | 1 | £ 260 |
| Own question | £ 380 | 1 | £ 380 |
| Incentive scheme | £ 280 | 1 | £ 280 |
| Dissemination site | £ 1,550 | 1 | £1,550 |
| Extra cost NHS post | £ 1.99 | | £ |
| Tel/NHS extra | £ 1.04 | | £ |
| | | | |
| VAT on above | | | £ |
| TOTAL | | | £ |

Timetable

14. A timetable for the publication of the 2013 NSS results is provided below for ease of reference.

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 August 2013 | <p>Ipsos MORI to launch Phase 1 of the NSS results dissemination site</p> <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). |
| 15 August 2013 | Ipsos MORI to make available, on the NSS results site, institutions' detailed students' open comments |
| 29 August 2013 | <p>Ipsos MORI to launch Phase 2 of the NSS results site (under embargo)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sector JACS subject data custom analysis tool |
| 12 September 2013 | Preview of full Unistats site including all institutions' NSS, DLHE and KIS data (under embargo). |
| 19 September 2013 | Updated Unistats website available to the public |

Further information

15. For KIS queries contact HESA (liaison@hesa.ac.uk, tel 01242 211144).
For any other further information, contact Dr Cliona O'Neill (tel 029 2068 2283; email cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk).