

## Cylchlythyr | Circular

# Consultation on detailed changes to the Key Information Set data collection for 2017 and approaches to presenting data on the successor to the Unistats website

**Date:** 30 June 2016  
**Reference:** W16/22HE  
**To:** Heads of HEIs and FEIs  
**Response by:** 26 July 2016 to HEFCE  
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This circular provides a link to the update on the work the UK higher education funding bodies are carrying out to implement the outcomes of the review of Unistats and the Key Information Set (KIS). It also provides a link to a further consultation seeking feedback on proposals, particularly the detailed changes to the KIS data proposed for 2017. Responses are required by 26 July 2016 to HEFCE.

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



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## Introduction

1. This circular provides a link to the update on the work the UK higher education funding bodies are carrying out to implement the outcomes of the review of Unistats and the Key Information Set (KIS). It also provides a link to a further consultation seeking feedback on proposals, particularly the detailed changes to the KIS data proposed for 2017.
2. Responses are required by 26 July 2016 to HEFCE at [www.hefce.ac.uk/lt/unikis/consultations](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/lt/unikis/consultations).

## The consultation

4. The consultation is being carried out jointly by the higher education funding bodies in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), as we work in partnership on the UK-wide KIS data collection.
5. This document consists of three sections:
  - Section 1** – Proposals for a revised data collection to replace the current KIS collection.
  - Section 2** – Proposals for aggregation of student-related data on the successor to the Unistats website.
  - Section 3** – An update on the investigation of possible approaches to presenting survey data on the successor to the Unistats website.
6. [Circular W15/22HE](#), Review of information about learning and teaching and the student experience: consultation on changes to the National Student Survey, Unistats and information provided by institution, included proposals to remove the following information from the KIS:
  - proportion of time spent in scheduled learning and teaching and independent study
  - proportion of assessment by method
  - tuition fee information
  - accommodation costs.
7. There was broad support for the proposals, so these elements are being removed from the collection.
8. In parallel with considering the impact of these changes on the data collection, the opportunity has been taken to review the remaining data items. The proposal is to make some changes to these data items based on feedback from users (students and their advisers) and the sector. The changes are proposed to make the information more useful to prospective students, without adding burden for providers. The consultation is intended to ensure that the changes are meaningful and practical for the full range of provision across the sector.

9. The funders have also reviewed our approach to aggregating data. At the moment, in an attempt to meet the publication thresholds, HEFCE apply for student-related data, and sometimes combine data over years and subject areas. This may be necessary where a course is new or does not have sufficiently large numbers for them to publish data for the current year at course level. The funders propose to retain this approach, and invites comments on this proposal.
10. The funders have also been investigating the alternative approaches to presenting National Student Survey and Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey data that they might adopt on the successor to the Unistats website. This document provides an opportunity for them to update the sector about this work, and the possible approaches they may take.
11. We intend to publish a specification for the data collection, which will replace the current KIS collection by the end of August 2016. We will consider the data output and content required for the new website later this year.
12. The Higher Education Public Information Steering Group, the funding bodies and HESA will consider the outcomes of the consultation in late summer 2016. We anticipate publishing the analysis by early September 2016.
13. The full consultation is available at the Unistats and Key Information Set section of the [HEFCE's website](#).

### **Action required**

14. Responses to this consultation should be made online by **noon on Tuesday 26 July 2016**, using the online response form which can be accessed alongside this document on the HEFCE website at [www.hefce.ac.uk/lt/unikis/consultations](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/lt/unikis/consultations).
15. We would welcome responses from across the sector. We recognise that these proposals may be of interest or relevance to different areas in institutions, but encourage the submission of a single institutional response. We will therefore be grateful to institutions for collating responses internally where necessary.

### **Further information / responses to**

16. For further information on the consultation contact [c.cameron@hefce.ac.uk](mailto:c.cameron@hefce.ac.uk) or [cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk).