74808 ON-ENTRY DATA

HESA

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OVERVIEW

As announced on 28 August 2019, on moving to discrete collections a new EntryProfile entity is being created to record the information statutory customers require when a student starts a programme of study. The EntryQualificationAward will move to become a child of the EntryProfile entity.
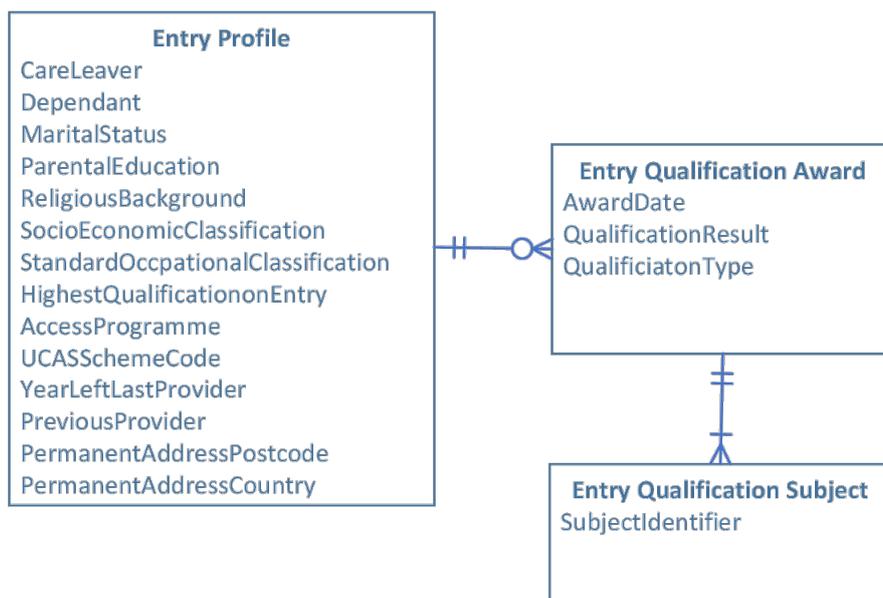
The rationale for this change was to allow on-entry data to be returned only once and then pulled forward for future submissions so that providers do not need to re-enter this information. This change was made to mimic the current reporting behaviour to minimise change between the discrete collection and legacy collections. Since announcing this change, discussion with providers and statutory customers have identified advantages and disadvantages to this approach. We are therefore seeking your views on two different approaches: 1) to automatically pull through on-entry data for future submissions and 2) for providers to re-state the on-entry data every collection the programme of study is reported.

This consultation considers two ways of returning on-entry data to understand the preferences of providers.

INTRODUCTION

Multiple responses
The 'save later' option allows multiple users from one organisation to engage with the consultation. Once you click the 'save later' option you will receive a unique link.

Please ensure that you read all of the information supplied in each section before answering the questions.

Once the required questions have been completed, a 'Finish' button will appear at the bottom of the consultation. Pressing this will complete the consultation and send your responses for analysis. Please do not click through to finish until you are satisfied with all of your answers.

On completion, a copy of your responses will be generated as a PDF and sent to the email address you enter below.

1. What is your name?
[text field]

2. What is your email address? If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.
[text field]

3. What is your organisation's name?
[text field]

ON-ENTRY DATA: OPTION A AND OPTION B

Please read the following before answering the questions that follow.

Option A: Pulling on-entry data forward

When first reporting an engagement the EntryProfile entity and any relevant EntryQualificationAwards are returned. For subsequent collections, when the same Engagement is returned the on-entry data is not included and the system automatically copies the latest version of the EntryProfile and EntryQualificationAwards for use in quality assurance and data deliveries. As a collection may open prior to the sign-off of the previous collection a period of overlap may occur. This could result in un-signed off on-entry data being pulled forward. In this exceptional situation, providers would be made aware if the data being pulled forward has not yet been signed-off and is therefore subject to change. At the end of the reference period, any pulled forward data that has not been signed-off would be replaced with the latest signed-off version, which could result in changes to the quality assurance reports.
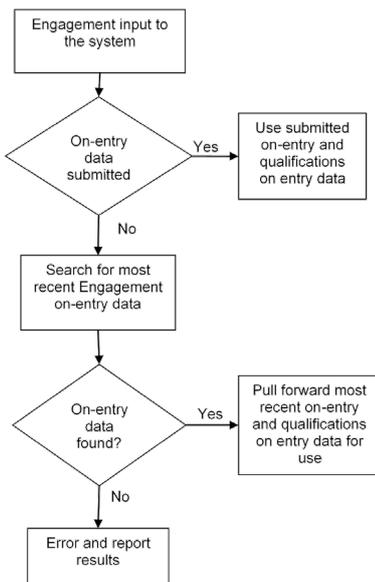
If providers need to send additional data because it was previously not available, the entire on-entry data would be returned. Thus where a missing qualification on-entry is subsequently returned, all the previously submitted qualifications on-entry and all the other on-entry (e.g. ReligiousBackground) data must also be returned. This is not the same process as the current legacy collections, because in Data Futures if the EntryProfile data is returned without any EntryQualificationAwards, it effectively deletes any awards returned in a previous collection.

Where on-entry data is returned again, the quality assurance rules will report any unexpected changes, e.g. known values that have been changed rather than updating a 'not available' code to a known value.

Potential advantages of option A:

- If all the on-entry data is known when reporting an Engagement for the first time, the EntryProfile and EntryQualificationAwards only ever have to be returned once.
- Allowing the on-entry data to be present gives providers the same flexibility that they currently have in the legacy system.
- The on-entry data will only be quality assured when it is returned.

Potential disadvantages of option A:

- As the sign-off periods may overlap with subsequent collection periods, non-signed off on-entry data may be pulled forward. If the 'latest' data that is pulled forward has not been signed-off, at the end of the sign-off period, it will be replaced with the latest signed-off version and validation will need to be rerun. This could introduce changes to the results of the quality assurance rules.
- Providers will need in place a process that identifies when this data has been corrected and such changes are returned when necessary. This includes obtaining data not available at the time of the first return.

Option B: Restating on-entry data every time

Every time an engagement is reported the EntryProfile entity and any relevant EntryQualificationAwards are always returned. If the EntryProfile data is returned without any EntryQualificationAwards, it effectively deletes any awards returned in the previous collection.

If fields are initially returned with a code of 'not available', they can be updated in the subsequent collection with a known value. The quality assurance rules will report any unexpected changes, for example, known values that have been changed rather than updating a 'not available' code to a known value.

Potential advantages of option B:

- It may be easier for providers to always submit on-entry data rather than excluding it for continuing students.
- Providers will not need in place a process that identifies when this data has been corrected and such changes are being returned as necessary. This includes obtaining data not available at the time of the first return.
- Providers will be in complete control of the on-entry data that will be used in validation.
- Providers will have visibility of all the on-entry data in their files to be uploaded.

- It will reduce some of the complexity required in the system as no process would be required to copy previously returned data forwards. Also, the quality rules would not need to identify whether the data has been copied forward or returned in the current collection.
- Where changes are made to the coding frame providers can choose to use the updated version when resending the data, e.g. the introduction of SOC2010 to replace SOC2000.
- May not need a separate EntryProfile entity and those fields could all sit within Engagement. EntryQualificationAward would then become a child of Engagement.

Potential disadvantages of option B:

- All on-entry data will need to be extracted from providers' own systems to be uploaded to HESA every time, even if there are no changes to the data.
- All on-entry data will be quality assured every time, so the same issue could be reported every collection depending on tolerance adjustments.
- Resending the on-entry data may give the impression, that the data should be updated and maintained, whereas the original values must be maintained, unless changes to the coding frame permit the updates.
- Significant structural changes to the coding frame could result in students having to be recoded. For example, when the coding frame for RELIGION changed from using one-digit codes to two-digit codes in C16051 a mapping exercise was possible. However, in this option for Data Futures the data for all continuing students will have to be returned using the new coding frame.

4. Which option would you prefer for the return of on-entry data?

For either option unless there are exceptional circumstances, where new values are added to the coding frame for a field, providers would not have to resurvey and/or recode the data for continuing students. The old codes would be retained in the coding frame and the quality rules would ensure the old and new codes are used appropriately.

Where new fields are added to the coding frame to replace an existing field, for example SOC2010 replacing SOC2000, providers will have a choice of whether to continue using the old field or recode to the new field.

The historical amendment process is not yet finalised; however, it may be impacted by the on-entry solution adopted.

- Option A: Pulling on-entry data forward
- Option B: Restating on-entry data every time
- No preference

Do you have any supporting information for your choice?
[text field]

5. If option B is implemented, would you prefer to keep the new EntryProfile entity or move the fields into the Engagement entity? If the EntryProfile entity is removed, the EntryQualificationAward entity will become a child of Engagement.
- Keep the new EntryProfile entity
- Move the on-entry fields into the Engagement entity
- No preference

Please explain the reason for your chosen option
[text field]

6. Do you have any other comments?
[text field]

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