



Skills Funding Agency

December 2016

Privacy Notice

Legal

The Secretary of State for Education acting through the Skills Funding Agency (SFA), an executive agency of the Department for Education is, for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998, registered as a data controller for personal data processed by the SFA and other third parties contracted to process data for the SFA. The Department for Education's Data Protection registration can be viewed on the [Information Commissioner's website](#).

Changes to this Privacy Notice

The SFA may amend this Privacy Notice from time to time. If we make any substantial changes in the way we use your personal information we will make that information available by amending this notice.

Children and privacy

The SFA does not knowingly solicit personal information from children under the age of 13 or send them requests for personal information.

Sharing data

The SFA generally collects data on behalf of the Secretary of State for the purposes of fulfilling the Secretary of State's statutory functions. Where the SFA shares data with a third party who undertakes work for the SFA, the SFA requires that the sharing is undertaken under contract and is subject to a data sharing agreement, specifying the secure management of the data.

Data might also be shared with other bodies, as informed to learners, for the purposes of those organisations fulfilling their own statutory purposes. Such sharing is undertaken using a standard data sharing agreement for specified legitimate and restricted purposes.

Security

The security of the SFA's systems which process and store data are regularly reviewed in accordance with Government requirements, and assessments and checks promoted by the Information Commissioner's Office. Data is securely deleted when it is no longer required for the purposes collected.

Questions or concerns about personal data

If you have any questions or concerns about our collection, use, or disclosure of your personal information, please write to the SFA's Information Rights Manager, Cheylesmore House, Quinton Road, Coventry, CV1 2WT.

Learner data

Learner data is collected by the SFA in accordance with the terms and conditions of funding imposed on providers of learning, for example, Further Education colleges and private training organisations. The data collected from learners is processed by the SFA, as explained in the Privacy Notice issued by providers to each learner.

The data is primarily used by the SFA to perform statutory functions on behalf of the Secretary of State as set out in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. Where personal data is required for the Department for Education (including its Executive Agency, the Education Funding Agency) or any of its successor bodies, to perform its statutory functions, this data is collected and processed on behalf of the Department for Education, or its successor bodies.

Information provided by learners may be shared with other organisations for purposes of administration, the provision of career and other guidance and statistical and research purposes, relating to education, training, employment and well-being. Other organisations include the Department for Works and Pensions, Local Authorities in England, the Higher Education Statistics Agency, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, educational institutions and organisations performing research and statistical work on behalf of the Department for Education, or partners of those organisations.

The learner data processed by the SFA is known as the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The specification and standards for the ILR are published for each academic year (1 August – 31 July) by the [SFA](#).

Learner data is also collected and supplied to the Learning Records Service, a part of the SFA. This personal data is used by the SFA to issue learners with a Unique Learner Number (ULN), and to create and maintain the Personal Learning Record. Information held in the Personal Learning Record is shared with third parties such as providers of learning with the consent of the learner.

Further details of how this personal data is processed for these purposes are published for the [Learning Records Service](#).

Apprenticeships

As part of this service, individuals can apply for and be kept informed of Apprenticeship opportunities. Personal data is processed to match registered candidate requirements to vacancies for Apprenticeships, including for those employers or providers offering a guaranteed interview scheme. Learning providers may act on behalf of employers to sift and shortlist candidates for interview that meet the criteria set by the employer. This service also enables the SFA and organisations funded to deliver the National Careers Service, and the Department for Works and Pensions (including Jobcentre Plus), and their employees or agents to search for apprenticeship vacancies and pass details to citizens and clients for the purpose of providing careers advice and guidance.

National Careers Service

The SFA encourages participation within further education and learning through the provision of career information and advice services. Data is collected to enable delivery of the services requested. Some optional demographic information (for example, ethnicity, declared disability) is requested to enable the SFA to monitor the performance of the service against equality and diversity objectives, and to ensure that the SFA is targeting the service to meet priority audience groups. A Lifelong Learning Account can be created and maintained for individuals to assist in receiving the service and removing the need to repeatedly request the same

information. For the purposes of protecting personal information stored in the Lifelong Learning Account, individuals are required to answer security questions to access their own information.

Further details about the service are provided on the [National Careers Service website](#).

Mailing lists and forums

Users of mailing lists and forums must register separately for these services. These services are free and on the whole will only require registration when posting messages. Details of how to register and remove personal details from mailing lists and forums are located with the mailing lists.

Do not register for these services if you do not want other subscribers to SFA mailing lists and/or forums to have access to your email address. Subscribers should only use these services for authorised purposes, and should under no circumstances divulge the email addresses of other subscribers to unconnected third parties.

Any unauthorised use may result in the offending subscriber's subscription being cancelled and, depending on the severity of the unauthorised action, the commencement of civil proceedings against the offender. If any subscriber is unsure as to whether or not a particular course of action is authorised, he/she should contact the SFA in the first instance.

The views and opinions expressed in any email either to a notice board or to a subscriber's personal e-mail address are the author's own and may not reflect the views and opinions of the SFA. In addition, the SFA cannot be held responsible for any acts or omissions of subscribers or for any breaches of data protection legislation by subscribers.

European Social Fund

The SFA funds education and training programmes in England for reducing unemployment and improving the prospects of people in work with support from the European Social Fund (ESF).

ESF pays half the costs and the SFA matches this with government funding for education and training. Personal data for ESF directly funded learners is collected for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and is used to monitor and report on the effectiveness of the programme. Other learners, from the SFA's own work related programmes, are matched to ESF participants, for the same purposes – and are called match learners. Both Direct and Match learners may be contacted by the ESF English Managing Authority, the DWP or its agents to carry out research and evaluation to inform the effectiveness of the programme. For direct funded learners on ESF programmes, both the DWP and the SFA are data controllers. Further information on the ESF programme is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).