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News from *the information authority*

Graham Jones to continue in chairman's role

We are pleased to announce that Graham Jones has agreed to an invitation from the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) to continue in his role as chairman of *the information authority* board for another term. Graham was first appointed as our independent chairman in May 2007 and is the former Principal and Chief Executive of Sutton Coldfield College. He has more than 20 years experience in senior further education roles and is a former schools and colleges Chief Inspector; a regional head of the Further Education Funding Council and an occasional columnist with the Times Educational Supplement.

Graham Jones in the hot seat

Ever wanted to question decision makers in the FE system? Feconnect, our online community portal, is putting senior colleagues in FE and training in the 'hot seat' on your behalf. The first guest is Graham Jones, chairman of *the information authority* board. As chairman, Graham oversees the authority's work and its priorities.

Please post your questions or comments for Graham now via the [hot seat forum on Feconnect](#). Graham will respond from 1 June and will continue the online discussion throughout that week.

We will post details of other guests as they are confirmed. For further information or to suggest any guests you would like to see in the 'hot seat' please email cst@theia.org.uk or telephone 024 7682 3782.

ILR documents publication notice

The following documents have recently been published on *the information authority* website for providers to download:

2008/09

- ER ILR Provider support manual for 2008/09 version 2;
- ESF SR ILR Provider support manual for 2008/09 version 2; and
- Appendix N for 2008/09 version 2.

2009/10

- LR ILR Provider support manual for 2009/10 version 1;
- LR E2E ILR Form for 2009/10 version 1 in PDF format;
- ER ILR Form for 2009/10 version 1 in PDF format;
- ASL Provider support manual for 2009/10 version 1;
- NLDC Learner return form for 2009/10 version 1;
- Supplementary learner record form for 2009/10 version 1;
- ESF SR ILR Provider support manual for 2009/10 version 1;
- ESF SR ILR Form for 2009/10 version 1 in PDF format;
- ESF SR ILR Form for 2009/10 version 1 in Word format;
- ESF SR Quick reference code table for 2009/10 version 1;
- Appendix N for 2009/10 version 2;

- ER Provider Support Manual 2009/10 version 1; and
- Appendix H 2009/10 version 1

All the above documents can be found by going to the [downloads section](#) of *the information authority's* website.

New local authority group – First meeting planned

The information authority is hosting a meeting for local authority representatives with an interest in further education (FE) and training system data. This will help to ensure that local authorities get the information they need ahead of the [Machinery of Government](#) changes. The meeting will take place in Coventry on Friday 24 July 2009.

At this initial meeting, we would like to:

- Explain *the information authority's* role in setting data standards and governing data collections in the FE system
- Introduce [the Data Service](#) and its role of collecting and disseminating FE data and information
- Introduce [Managing Information Across Partners \(MIAP\)](#) and the benefits of its [Unique Learner Number \(ULN\)](#)
- Capture any data issues/ gaps/ concerns from local authorities
- Discuss the [Framework for Excellence \(FfE\)](#)

Going forward, we would like to establish a local authority [group](#) which can flag up data issues, suggest improvements to existing practices, advise on the impact of possible changes, and share good practice.


Interested in attending?

There are few places still available for the meeting on 24 July. If you are interested in attending, or would like to be kept informed of the group's work, please email cst@theia.org.uk or call 024 7682 3597.

New web alerts on www.theia.org.uk

Visitors to our website can now sign up to a new e-alert service that will let them know when new pages are published, or existing pages are updated.

This means that website visitors will have more control over the information they receive about our site - and will be alerted only to areas of specific interest.

To sign up to this service visit the [web alerts page](#) – you will be asked to enter your name, a valid email address and a password. You will be able to choose which areas of the site you would like to receive web alerts for. If you wish to change this at a later date, you can either sign in to amend your subscriptions, or subscribe to additional areas of the site by clicking on the 'subscribe' icon  at the top-right of the page.

Our RSS feed service has also changed – there are now two separate feeds which cover the 'News' and 'ILR Documents' areas of the site. You can sign up for these on our [RSS](#)

[feed page](#). If you currently subscribe to our RSS feed, you will need to change the link and subscribe to one of the new feeds, as we will be turning off the whole site feed shortly.

If you have any queries regarding the web alert service or the RSS feeds, please email cst@theia.org.uk.

Unscheduled data request reporting process now live

The *information authority* is working in partnership with the LSC to address unscheduled data requests being made that duplicate data already supplied (including via ILR collections), which was raised as an issue by providers in the Data Burden Report.

The unscheduled data request reporting process is now live. For further details visit our website at:

<http://www.theia.org.uk/reducingdataburden/unscheduleddatarequests/>

Delivery of Consistent Ethnicity Reporting Across Different Data Streams

The *information authority* recently provided resource to allow the Information Standards Board (ISB) for education, skills and children's services to develop a standard for ethnicity data across the education sector.

This standard will allow ethnicity information to be collected locally at a relevant detailed level and summarised to the Office of National Statistics (ONS) categories used at the national census. The information authority will look to introduce the new standard in the Individualised Learner Record once categories for the 2011 National Census have been agreed by parliament in autumn 2009 – any changes are likely to be reflected in the academic year 2011/12.

News from the Data Service

In-year success rate reporting for Apprenticeships and Train to Gain

The Period 9 Apprenticeships Qualification Success Rates (QSR) reports for 2008/09 were published on the Provider Gateway on 26 May 2009.

This year's reports have been developed in consultation with Ofsted and LSC colleagues. A small working group has been established to consider and propose a common approach to delivering and reporting QSRs for apprenticeships and Train to Gain that would be acceptable to both the LSC and Ofsted. Both organisations are committed to having a common approach.

As a result of this consultation the QSR reports have been presented in a different format to previous years, harmonising the look and feel of the reports and providing consistent variables where appropriate. The reports are designed to support the LSC move to single contracting arrangements with multi site providers and as such the data will be presented at Local Authority level.

The reports use 2008/09 data up to and including period 9.

Each provider can download their own data from the Provider Gateway in a zipped file which contains:

- QSR reports
 - a summary report covering totals for England and for each Region and Local Authority in which the provider has a delivery centre
 - detailed separate reports for England, Regions and Local Authorities (where applicable, relating to this provider)
- a Microsoft Excel file of success rates details for all learners (relating to this provider)
- guidance information

If you have a query about these reports please contact the Service Desk on 0870 2670001.

The Train to Gain in-year Qualification Success Rates (QSR) reports for 2008/09 are due to be published on the Provider Gateway in June.

Data Collections timetable 2009/10 update

In the last edition of Inform we outlined the rollout plan for the 2009/10 data collections systems and software updates.

It has now been agreed that release 1 of the Learner Information Suite (LIS) will be made available to providers and LSC colleagues during July 2009 and not June as previously stated.

We will bring you more information on the releases in future editions of Inform.

News from the further education sector

Becta confirms new Chair

Schools Minister Jim Knight has confirmed the appointment of Graham Badman as the new Chair of Becta from 1 May 2009.

Graham has been acting as Interim Chair since 1 January 2009 after replacing Andrew Pinder, who stepped down after three years in the role. Mr Badman's contract will run for three years.

The Becta Board's job is to support and challenge the Executive to ensure that the organisation fulfils its responsibilities. Together they are responsible for developing strategies, plans and policies that uphold and promote Becta's core values, policies and objectives. The Board also has a role in ensuring continuity of direction and management for the organisation and promoting the organisation's role to the wider community.

About us

The information authority

The information authority was established in October 2006 to set and regulate data standards for all organisations involved in further education and training in England.

The authority has a decision-making board headed by an independent chairman and made up of senior representatives from across the education and training system in England. This is supported by a small operational secretariat.

The Data Service

The Data Service was established in April 2008 to collect and disseminate information as the first single source of data for the further education system in England. It will work closely with *the information authority* to streamline and improve the way information is collected and shared. Key principles of the service are to eradicate duplication; improve collection and sharing; increase efficiency; assure quality and; provide new levels of customer service.

Funded primarily by the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and supported by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) at its inception, the new separately managed organisation will have developed by 2011 into a fully operational service provider working in the interests of the sector as a whole.

Appointments

The Data Service has made a number of new appointments who will be joining on 1st June 2009. Gerard Fremlin will be joining the Data Service as Service Manager, Stephen Green as Senior Account Manager and Mike Wicks as MI Customer Manager.

Jane Ludlow started in May as Lead Support Advisor. In the Production and Quality team Clarissa Powell, has joined as an Apprentice.

In the MI Team, Pandora Phelan and Stuart Baillie will soon be joining as MI Development Senior Analysts, working for Andy Cooke. In addition Paul Adams, Data Warehouse Manager has joined us for six months.

In terms of contract staff, the Data Service welcome Diane Spence and Rebecca Howard, who are working with Alan Boshier in managing the Data Service project portfolio.

The *information authority* has appointed Adele Dixon as Data Quality Manager. Adele will be joining the team in June 2009.



To find out more about *the information authority* and the Data Service, visit:

www.theinformationauthority.org.uk
www.thedataservice.org.uk