



# Privacy Notice

## Extended Privacy Notice text for students, learners and trainees

In order to allow both learners and others to access the learner's PLR, organisations are responsible for issuing a copy of the Privacy Notice to learners.

This statement is intended to provide you with information as to how The Learning Records Service will collect and use your personal information and data, and how you can exercise choice in respect of the use of your personal data:

- Some of the information will be used by the Skills Funding Agency to fulfil its statutory functions, issue and/or verify your Unique Learner Number (ULN) and up-date and/or check your own Personal Learning Record (PLR).
- Your PLR will include information about your qualifications, awards, training and learning achievements that you may collect throughout your education lifetime – at all levels and also whilst you are working and learning.
- Your PLR can be shared with organisations who have a responsibility for providing, funding and serving your education and training.
- If you are under 16 years of age, you may wish to discuss this privacy notice with your parent or legal guardian.
- The Skills Funding Agency is a public body that funds qualifications and training that you may be receiving. It's responsible for maintaining ULNs and PLR on behalf of all individuals aged 13 and above in England, Wales and NI.
- Your ULN is a ten digit reference number, unique to yourself for use within education. Please keep this number in a safe place.
- If you are 16 or over, you can access your own PLR through the National Careers Service by opening a Lifelong Learning Account (LLA). The National Careers Service provides information, advice and guidance tools to help you make decisions on learning, training and work opportunities. The service offers confidential and impartial advice, supported by qualified careers advisers. For more information visit the National Careers Service [website](#).
- The Skills Funding Agency may obtain and use third party reference data to assist when verifying your ULN and checking that the data it holds about you is correct, in order to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act to keep your details accurate.
- The Skills Funding Agency may use your information for management and statistical purposes and for monitoring the accuracy of the information it holds about you.
- The Education Act 1996 lists the "prescribed persons", which organisations are legally authorised to have access to educational data. Find out more by [reading the Code of Practice for Sharing Personal Information](#)
- Please note that **you can opt-out** of the Skills Funding Agency sharing your PLR. However, you can't opt-out of the Skills Funding Agency storing your information.

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# Skills Funding Agency

- If you're enrolled with a training/learning organisation, they have the ability to update your record from "Ability to Share" to "Not to Share". Otherwise, you can contact the LRS Service Desk on 0345 602 2589. You will be required to provide some personal details to confirm your identity, which includes your ULN.

## How We Use Your Data

The Learning Records Service is operated by the Skills Funding Agency. The Learning Records Service collects data relating to learners registering for relevant post-14 qualifications, for example GCSEs, AS and A2 Qualifications, Diplomas and associated units, Apprenticeships, Entry to Employment Certificates and other vocational units.

The Learning Records Service offers a facility which stores learner participation and achievements. By providing your personal information, relevant organisations will have access your Personal Learning Record to enable the use of your personal information in order to assess your achievements, awards and credits and to offer advice and guidance.

The Learning Records Service offers the following core services:

- a Learner Register which allocates a Unique Learner Number (ULN) to each learner.
- a Personal Learning Records Service. The Personal Learning Records Service will offer you the facility to access your participation and achievement data from relevant data sources via the LRS website.

## Collection of data

The Learning Records Service collects data from:

- information which is already being collected by other agencies from schools and other learning providers.
- information you provide when you register with a learning provider.
- qualification, unit and Rules of Combination data from Ofqual.
- participation and achievement data from the National Pupil Database and Skills Funding Agency.
- Learner achievement data supplied by Awarding Organisations directly into the Personal Learning Record.

## Use of data

The Unique Learner Number enables education and training sector organisations, and Awarding Organisations regulated by Ofqual, to share information about participation and achievements in a consistent and approved manner, promoting good information management practice, and helping to improve accuracy and efficiency.

This will benefit you through enhancing the application processes to Awarding Organisations, learning providers, learning advisors and other third parties.

Your Personal Learning Record may be shared with organisations linked to your education and training. Any organisations that access information you provide are registered under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will use your personal information in accordance with the requirements of the Act. These organisations are required to sign relevant Data Sharing Agreements and control



# Skills Funding Agency

documentation which requires them to only access your information for specific purposes and to manage your data responsibly [and only to access information where there is a direct connection between you and their organisation]. They are also required to inform you of how your data is being shared. The list of organisations that may access the information you provide now or in the future is contained in Annex A.

At no time will your personal information be passed to any organisations for marketing or sales purposes.

## **Permissions for sharing**

Because the ULN is required for the administration of services within the education and training sector (such as the issuing of certain qualifications), you cannot opt-out of being issued with a ULN on the Learner Register.

The Personal Learning Record also enables you to share, as much or as little, of your participation and achievement data held in the PLR with other third parties.

You can also share information with other organisations and individuals by creating a configured view of your participation and achievement data. The configured view allows you to create the view of your participation and achievement data and furthermore to share information with any third party that you wish.

One potential consequence of deciding not to allow data sharing of your participation and achievement data contained in the Learning Records Service will be that you may need to provide copies of certificates or other information to verify qualifications. You will also inhibit organisations that can support your continued education working with you, to perform on your behalf including the learner centric functions: Routes to Achievement, Rules of Combination queries and Credit Transfer functions.

## **Correcting inaccurate data**

A major benefit of The Learning Records Service is that you can check that information held about you is accurate and request that any errors are corrected. If you believe that any information on your Personal Learning Record is incorrect then you should follow the data challenge procedure found on the LRS website.

## **Sensitive personal data**

The Learning Records Service makes every effort not to collect any information which consists of sensitive personal data (for example, data which relates to ethnic origin, physical or mental health, religious beliefs, trade union membership or any criminal offences or proceedings).

If you find that any sensitive personal data has inadvertently been included, you should contact the Agency through the service desk. The Learning Records Service currently employs a process of sensitive personal data identification and removal.



## **Sensitive learners**

The Learning Records Service recognises that some learners have specific concerns about privacy which mean that additional safeguards are required. The Learning Records Service implements a Sensitive Learners Policy to ensure these safeguards are implemented.

## **Security**

The Learning Records Service recognises the need to keep your information secure and has implemented a Security Policy that provides the appropriate technical and organisational measures aimed at preventing loss of, or unauthorised use of, your information in accordance with Government standards.



## How long will we keep your data?

The Learning Records Service is intended to provide a life-long record of learning which will be available to you at any time you choose to participate in education or training. Therefore, the Learning Records Service may continue to hold your ULN, Personal Learning Record and Qualification Credit Framework and associated data for 66 years and will be reviewed periodically.

## Updates to this policy

The Learning Records Service recognises that privacy and data protection concerns can evolve over time and will keep this policy under review. Any amendments will be posted here and will be notified to learners when they access their Personal Learning Record.

## Annex A

The list of organisations that may access the information you provide now or in the future where there is a direct connection between you and their organisation and the permitted purpose for why they may access your Personal Learning Record.

Organisation	Permitted Purposes
Learning Providers - schools (state, independent, academies); - Local Authorities; - colleges; - training providers (inc private, third sector/voluntary & employers); - Higher Education Institutions. - Prisons /Offender Learning Institutions; - Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force) - in the UK inc. Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey*	Access achievement (prior, current/new and destination) for enabling enrolment/entry/progression in education and training; managing eligibility and entitlements, claims to public funding; supporting credit accumulation and transfer, measuring learner success; providing information, advice and guidance for progression; ensuring clear accountability in meeting legislation and regulation for the provision of education and training;



# Skills Funding Agency

Awarding Organisations Alliance of Sector Skills Councils*	Checking prior achievement for awarding (including Apprenticeships) and to satisfy Qfqual regulation for credit accumulation and transfer;
Careers Organisations - National Careers Service/Next Step; - Careers Wales; - NI Careers Service*; - Careers Scotland*; - Local Authorities/Connexions; - Private organisations (for example, school contracted IAG services)*	Access achievement for providing information, advice and guidance about career progression, employment opportunities or next step in learning and availability of public funding;
UCAS	Access achievement for progression/entry into higher education and for onward sharing with education institutions to support applications
Student Loans Company*	Access achievement for funding further and higher education
Government Departments, Devolved Administrations & NDPBs/Agencies - DfE, YPLA/Education Funding Agency; - BIS, Skills Funding Agency/Apprenticeship Service; HEfCE-HESA; - DfES Wales*, DELNI/DENI*, Scottish Govt*; - OfSTED	Access to achievement data for measuring and auditing eligibility to public funding, matching apprentices, ensuring independent quality assessment of education and training; measuring success; ensuring clear accountability in meeting legislation and regulation for the provision of education and training; production of official statistics and research to inform government policy.
DWP* and Job Centre Plus*;	Access achievement for providing information, advice and guidance about employment opportunities or next step in learning and eligibility of public funding when seeking employment

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