



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester M1 2WD

Reference: 2024-0016668

11 June 2024

Sent via email – john.harrison@ucdx.org.uk

Dear Mr Harrison

Freedom of Information Request

I refer to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) (“the Act”), which we received on 29 May 2024. You requested:

One of the stated aims of the Learning Records Service, as given in its privacy notice, is ‘to enable education organisations to access these [qualification] records when required to support individuals with enrolment to education and careers advice, ensuring they get access to the correct education and government funding’.

To respond properly to this FOI request, please advise:

1 what it is the specified minimum level of qualifications that a learner should achieve by a threshold age (presumably 16?), such that – if the learner does not achieve the minimum – they are entitled to further funding from DfE; and

2 how many learners (in terms of both percentage and absolute number) in England did not – in each of the five years 2018-2023 – achieve this minimum qualification threshold, and so were duly entitled to further funding from DfE; and

3 provide equivalent figures, as requested in *2*, for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, if available.

I have dealt with your request under the Act.

The information you requested is not held by this Department. Post 16 funding in England has no pre-requisite for attainment or non-attainment of a particular qualification level. Consequently we cannot provide data regarding students not achieving a required minimum qualification level as there isn't one.

Funding policies for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are the responsibility of the respective devolved administrations and, as such, the Department for Education are unable to respond or provide data on their behalf.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me via the DfE [contact form](#) on GOV.UK. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled, you should make a complaint to the Department by writing to me within two calendar months of the date of this letter. Your complaint will be considered by an independent review panel, who were not involved in the original consideration of your request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint to the Department, you may then contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gemma Peck', written in a cursive style.

Gemma Peck

Director of Funding, ESFA