



Department
for Education

Higher Education Statistics Agency: de-designation

Government consultation

Launch date 13 June 2022

Respond by 10 July 2022

Contents

Introduction	3
Who this is for	4
Equality Impact Assessment	4
Issue date	4
Enquiries	5
Additional copies	5
The response	5
About this consultation	6
Respond online	6
Other ways to respond	6
Deadline	6
De-designation of HESA as the DDB	7
Background	7
Proposal	7
Rationale	7
Annex: Information duties of the DDB	9

Introduction

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is the designated data body (DDB) under the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA). The DDB compiles and publishes appropriate information relating to registered higher education providers and the higher education courses they provide. It also makes the information available in an appropriate form and manner to the OfS, UK Research and Innovation and the Secretary of State. HESA has announced that it is exploring a merger with Jisc¹, and that if the merger goes ahead, HESA staff and assets would transfer to Jisc and HESA would, in time, cease to exist.

It is not possible under HERA to transfer designation between bodies. As a result, if the merger goes ahead, HESA would need to be removed as the DDB. To ensure that there are no interruptions to data services, concurrent removal of HESA's designation and designation of a new body would be essential.

Under paragraph 5(4) of Schedule 6 to HERA, the Secretary of State is required to consult before removing the designation of a DDB, even in a situation where the body consents to such de-designation (and may cease to exist in the future). This consultation therefore seeks views on the de-designation of HESA in the event that it merges with Jisc.

In addition, the OfS may consult about whether there is a body that is suitable to be designated by the Secretary of State as a new DDB². A separate consultation is being carried out by the OfS³ on the suitability of Jisc as the new DDB. **This consultation is therefore not seeking views on the designation of Jisc as the new DDB in the event that it merges with HESA.** If your views relate to the suitability of Jisc to be the new DDB, please respond to the OfS's consultation.

The Secretary of State may remove the designation of the DDB if:

- (a) the Secretary of State is satisfied that removing the designation would be appropriate, or
- (b) the DDB consents to the removal of the designation.

¹ [HESA and Jisc explore merger](#). More information on Jisc and its activities is available on the [Jisc website](#)

² [Designated Data Body for England | HESA](#)

³ [Consultation on the suitability of Jisc as the designated data body - Office for Students](#)

HESA has therefore requested that this consultation should be undertaken. While HESA has not provided its consent to removal of its DDB designation, HESA has indicated that such consent may be forthcoming in the event that:

the consultation supports the removal of HESA as DDB;

the separate OfS consultation recommends the appointment of Jisc as DDB; and

HESA is content that all processes and actions necessary to secure the transfer of its operations to Jisc have been undertaken.

Please note that HESA has not yet issued a notice under paragraph 5(3)(b) of Schedule 6 to HERA consenting to the removal of its designation. If no such notice is received and HESA does not merge with Jisc, we are unlikely to progress with the process for de-designating HESA.

Who this is for

- Registered higher education providers
- Persons representing, or promoting the interests of, students on higher education courses provided by registered higher education providers
- Persons representing, or promoting the interests of, employers of graduates
- The OfS

Equality Impact Assessment

We anticipate that removal of the designation would only take place in the circumstances set out in this consultation, alongside the merger with Jisc.

This consultation process, together with ensuring that there is concurrent de-designation and new designation if the merger takes place, would ensure that that this change does not impact on the Department's ability to comply with its equality duties, and that there is no risk to data collection and publication.

Accordingly, we do not anticipate that this proposed change will have any equality impact.

Issue date

The consultation was issued on 13 June 2022

Enquiries

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the DDB.Consultation@education.gov.uk

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the DfE Ministerial and Public Communications Division by email: Consultations.Coordinator@education.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the [DfE Contact us page](#).

Additional copies

Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from [GOV.UK DfE consultations](#).

The response

The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be [published on GOV.UK](#) in summer/autumn 2022.

About this consultation

This consultation document makes one proposal: that, if HESA merges with Jisc as intended, the designation of HESA as the DDB under the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 should be removed. The OfS is consulting separately on the suitability of Jisc as the new DDB.

We would like to hear your views on our proposal.

Respond online

To help us analyse the responses please use the online system wherever possible. Visit www.education.gov.uk/consultations to submit your response.

Other ways to respond

If for exceptional reasons, you are unable to use the online system, for example because you use specialist accessibility software that is not compatible with the system, you may download a word document version of the form and email it or post it.

By email

- DDB.consultation@education.gov.uk

By post

Office for Students Sponsorship Team
Department for Education
2nd Floor,
2 St Paul's Place,
Sheffield, S1 2JE

Deadline

The consultation closes on 10 July 2022.

De-designation of HESA as the DDB

Background

The background is set out in full in the introduction to the consultation.

Please note: this consultation relates to the removal of the designation of HESA as the DDB in the event that it merges with Jisc and is **not** seeking views on the proposed designation of Jisc as the new DDB. A separate consultation is being carried out by the OfS on the suitability of Jisc as the new DDB. If your views relate to the suitability of Jisc to be the new DDB, please respond to the OfS's consultation.⁴

Proposal

The designation of HESA as the DDB should be removed in the event that HESA merges with Jisc as intended, with HESA ceasing to exist.

Rationale

Under paragraph 5(4) of Schedule 6 to HERA, the Secretary of State is required to consult on the de-designation of a DDB, even where:

- the DDB itself is requesting and consents to the de-designation; and
- the current DDB is merging and will cease to exist.

HESA has asked the Secretary of State to carry out this consultation, as part of a process which would, subject to the outcome of this consultation and that being carried out by the OfS, allow HESA to be de-designated as DDB concurrently with Jisc being designated as the new DDB.

Please note that HESA has not yet issued a notice under paragraph 5(3)(b) of Schedule 6 to HERA consenting to the removal of its designation. If no such notice is received and HESA does not merge with Jisc, we are unlikely to progress with the process for de-designating HESA.

The duties which HESA carries out are set out in the Annex to this consultation, but are not the subject of this consultation.

⁴ [Consultation on the suitability of Jisc as the designated data body - Office for Students](#)

Question: Do you agree that the designation of HESA as the Designated Data Body for higher education in England should be removed, on this basis set out above?

Annex: Information duties of the DDB

The Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA) sections 64 and 65 set out the information duties of the OfS or, where a body is designated as the designated data body (DDB) under Schedule 6 to HERA, the DDB.

The DDB is required to:

- a) compile appropriate information relating to registered higher education providers and the higher education courses they provide, and
- b) make the information available in an appropriate form and manner to the OfS, UK Research and Innovation and the Secretary of State.

The DDB must also publish, or arrange for the publication of, appropriate information relating to registered higher education providers and the higher education courses they provide.

In connection with the information duties, what is required to be compiled, made available, and published under sections 64 and 65 of HERA has been determined by the OfS.

The current activities that fall within the information duties, and which are currently delivered by HESA, are given in Table 1. We understand that initially the OfS expects the information duties which currently fall to HESA would fall to Jisc if it is appointed as the new designated DDB (subject to the OfS consultation) and HESA is de-designated. This includes the transition to in-year individualised student data collection through the Data Futures programme.

Table 1: Summary of the information HESA collects and publishes on the basis of sections 64 and 65 of HERA

Collection	Publication
Provider profile	
Student record, Student alternative record and Aggregate offshore record	HE student statistics– all Providers
	HE student statistics - full open data release – All Providers
Graduate outcomes, including the collection of contact details	Higher Education Graduate Outcomes Statistics: Summary and HE Graduate Outcomes (Open) Data
Staff record	HE staff statistics
	HE staff full open data release

Collection	Publication
HE-BCI	HE provider data: HE Business and Community Interaction survey
Unistats	Annual Unistats dataset and fortnightly updates
	HE provider data: Finance



Department
for Education

© Crown copyright 2022

This document/publication (not including logos) is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

To view this licence:

visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3

email psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk

write to Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU

About this publication:

enquiries www.gov.uk/contact-dfe

download www.gov.uk/government/consultations



Follow us on Twitter:
[@educationgovuk](https://twitter.com/educationgovuk)



Like us on Facebook:
facebook.com/educationgovuk