

POSTCODE UPLIFT VALUES

Some of you will be aware that the period 3 PFR reconciliations are showing different postcode uplift values to those calculated in PICS, for both area and disadvantage uplift. We've taken this up with the LSC: although the original response from their support desk suggested that it was an error, this was followed on November 6th by the issue of a new set of rates (in a file which has 'Sept16' in its title, so it may have been around for some time).

These changes will, of course, affect your funding calculations for 2009-10. By the time you read this, we will have issued the new uplift rates for automatic incorporation into PICS: the next time you final claims after running software updates, the new values will be used, and your claim history will reflect the new values. The learner status report and the actual values calculated in the profiler will change at the same time.

You should also, of course, be keeping your copy of the LIS up to date with these changes: they can be downloaded from the LSC website [here](#). While you're there, you might as well update your LIS with the latest LAD values from [here](#).



A quick glance suggests that the new uplifts are all lower than the old rates, so I'm afraid this is likely to mean less money for you.

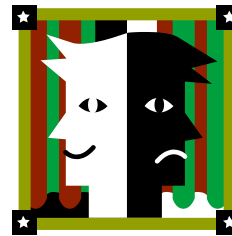
'MANAGING DEMAND' FOR TRAIN TO GAIN

If you have Train to Gain learners, you may have seen a suggestion from the LSC that, in effect, allows you voluntarily to claim less money for these learners by the use of field A51a. We've every intention of supporting this in PICS, but

please make no changes to your data just yet. The reason we ask you to delay making any change is so that we can support carry-over learners properly: we'll need to keep them at the old rate for 2008-09 calculations, and use the new rate only for 2009-10. Keep an eye on the change log; alternatively, give the support line a call to check that we've made the change to PICS before you make any changes to A51a that should affect only the 2009-10 year funding

LSC PROFILER DEVELOPMENTS

We're very aware that you're being asked for current year profiles in a new format.



We're nearly ready to release a new version of the profiler that will produce these spreadsheets for you: as far as possible we're relying on data that you will have entered already, though some additional capture will be necessary. We plan to have this available next week. Please read the document [here](#) which outlines our thinking on this.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE – A REMINDER

We will be closed for our Christmas lunch from 12pm on the afternoon of Friday 4th December. Support emails and phone messages will be picked up on Monday 7th December.

We are providing you with plenty of notice as we are aware that this is the last submission day for Period 4 ER ILR export files. As always we encourage you to send your ILR export files before this date as this will allow you to ensure you can deal with any errors and also reconcile your data (remember PFRs requested on the last day will include calculations for the next month.)

The office will also be closed from 12pm on Thursday 24th December 2009 and reopen at 9am on Monday 4th January 2010.



TRAINING EVENTS

There are still a few places available on the PICS LSC Financial Management seminar, details below. We will be closing the booking form at midday on Monday 09/11/2009 - if you'd like a place please book now.

[PICS LSC Financial Management](#)

London (One Aldwych) – 11/11/2009 (booking closes midday on Monday 09/11/2009)

This event discusses in detail all aspects of LSC funding and how it is represented in PICS, to ensure that you obtain full advantage from your contract with the LSC and can manage LSC funding within your organisation. This will be the last opportunity to get the 2008/09 funding sorted out before the close of the 08/09 year. We will also be looking at this year's funding model in depth. This event is aimed at financial administrators and managers, and is delivered by a senior member of the PICS development team.

[Click here for further details](#)

[Introduction to PICS for LSC users](#)

Birmingham - 23/11/2009 (booking closes midday on Wednesday 18/11/2009)

This is the ideal introductory course for anyone needing to enter ILR data to PICS. It will take you through basic system use and then explain the significance of the data and how it is used for export and funding. It is aimed primarily at LSC users.

[Click here for further details](#)

Please contact Pellcomp on 01603 467100 or email training@pellcomp.co.uk if you would like any further information on this or other training events.

If you would like to book but are unable to do so please let us know by calling on 01603 467100 or email training@pellcomp.co.uk

For the full list of current PICS training events please visit [our website](#)

WORLD CLASS SKILLS

We have been asked by our friends at World Class Skills if we could let you know of free support services that may help you if you deliver Apprenticeship programmes. Please note that this is external content so any queries should be directed to the contacts below and not to Pellcomp Software.

Delivering world class Apprenticeships

The World Class Skills (WCS) programme is a major Learning & Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) initiative to help further education providers be more responsive to employers' needs. As part of this programme, WCS has now developed a diverse range of dedicated support for providers who deliver Apprenticeships training.

Whether it's dedicated one-to-one advice or sector-specific insight, WCS offers a portfolio of support to help providers to enhance the quality of their Apprenticeships delivery within difficult economic times. The support is fully subsidised for LSC funded providers and covers consultancy, coaching, events and the recently launched online conferences.

So, if you are an apprenticeships provider, act now. Do not miss out on the opportunity to access the support that's right for you.

Contact the WCS team

For details of the latest support and resources available to apprenticeship providers, visit <http://wcs.excellencegateway.org.uk/apprenticeships>.

Alternatively contact the WCS team at wcsenquiries@kpmg.co.uk or by phone on 0800 328 6075.

Contact and information links:

Pellcomp Software
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NR2 2BQ

01603 492620
support@pellcomp.co.uk
www.pellcomp.co.uk

PICS Training events:
Click [here](#) for the latest on Training Events.

Pellcomp Web Forums:
Click [here](#) for a range of queries, issues and general topics related to PICS, LSC, JCP etc.