

FAQs: Self-Evaluation Report

Updated on 21/08/2025

1. Data Source & Timeframe

Should the timeframe recorded in this column be 2024/2025 in all cases?

The timeframe recorded in the Data Source & Timeframe column will depend on the most recent available relevant datasets from which an institution's benchmarking and results data for 2024/2025 will be drawn. For benchmarking, data will usually be drawn from the most recent publicly available dataset (see response on **Benchmark Data** below, for further guidance). For reporting results, the HEI can either use the most recent publicly available dataset, or if preferred, the HEI may use internal data that has not yet been published. If opting for the latter, the HEI should list **both** data sources (publicly available and internal) and record the relevant timeframe for each.

For example:

For indicators that draw on Progression or Completion rate data, the most recent publicly available datasets for benchmarking are published in the [HEA – Progression and Completion Report 2025](#), and include the **2022/23 New Entrants Progression rate**, and the **Completion rate as of 2023**. For reporting results, the HEI can either use these datasets, or if preferred, they may use internal HEI data that has not yet been published. If opting for the latter, the HEI should list both data sources and record the timeframe for each.

For any indicators that draw on data from the Graduate Outcomes Survey, the most recent publicly available dataset is the [Class of 2023](#) survey results.

For any indicators that draw on the Knowledge Transfer Ireland Annual Knowledge Transfer Survey, the most recent publicly available dataset is currently [2023](#), however it is expected that the 2024 data may be published in August, so the timeframe, (whether 2023 or 2024) will depend on whether the survey results are published before the SER is submitted to the HEA.

For indicators that draw on data from the [System Performance Dashboard](#), the timeframe will differ depending on the specific indicator. For example, for the Number of enrolments on Springboard+/- HCI courses, the timeframe of the most recent published dataset currently is 2023. The Dashboard will be updated as more recent data becomes available.

For indicators that draw on internal HEI datasets, the HEI should indicate the period to which the data relates. For example, an indicator may draw on the HEI's CPD Data to report on the **Number of managers (academic and PMSS) undertaking X training**; the HEI should indicate whether the reported data is from calendar year 2024 or 2025.

2. Benchmark Data

Is the Benchmark Data column different to the preceding column? Should Benchmark Data use data from the same year as the data in the Baseline column?

Benchmarking of the HEI's performance against comparator HEIs should be completed annually as part of the Self-Evaluation Report. In the Benchmark Data column, the HEI should provide **the most recent available data** on the comparator HEI or set of HEIs identified in the preceding column.

The Baseline column should not be edited, and no further baseline data should be provided in the tables in Part A. (For definition of baseline and benchmark, please see [SPF Glossary](#))

Further guidance on the completion and submission of the SER is provided in the [Strategy & Performance Dialogue Process 2025-2028](#) Information Pack.

3. National Student Survey Reporting

How should an institution report on indicators that draw on data from the national student survey (studentsurvey.ie) while it remains paused for taught programmes?

For reporting on indicators that draw on data from the national student survey, it is advised that where an institution has conducted its own survey(s), and this internal survey is sufficiently aligned with an indicator(s), the results of the survey may be reported in the **2024/25 result** column of the table in Part A, with the **Data source & timeframe** column noting the internal survey as the source and recording when this survey was conducted.

If an institution's survey differs significantly from the national student survey such that the results data would not align with the current wording of the relevant indicator(s), the institution may insert an additional blank row underneath each relevant indicator(s) and populate it with the institution's own internal metric data, leaving the 'Target' columns blank. Any alternative metric data included should reflect the relevant aspect of student experience or engagement that the original indicator is intended to monitor.

Within the technical note(s) for affected indicator(s), an institution may note that, in lieu of national student survey data, an institution's internal survey has been used as an alternative source of data for reporting on relevant indicators. This technical note(s) may also be used to provide additional detail on the internal survey, for example relevant questions, response options, response rate, calculation methodology, etc.

If no comparable survey has been conducted, the institution may record 'not available' in the **2024/25 result** column of the table in Part A.