



PROVIDER DATA SELF ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT (PDSAT)

Ensuring data compliance within the further education and skills sector

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The PDSAT is a key tool for ensuring data compliance in the further education/apprenticeship sectors. The PDSAT software is designed to analyse your ILR submission and provide reports on types of learners and possible data and funding issues.

It is also a large part of the Education and Skills Funding Agency's (ESFA) funding assurance approach, with significant time being spent on the analysis of these reports to determine if funds are at risk or data is incorrect.

How can RSM help?

To the untrained eye the world of PDSATs can seem complex and impenetrable but with our services we can help make the complex more straightforward. From a detailed review with testing of samples to source documents, to comprehensive training for staff we can help you make sense of the multiple PDSAT reports and get the most out of them.

Data review

Our basic offer is a comprehensive review of your ILR. You provide the data and we'll review it, providing detailed feedback on a report by report basis. The feedback will identify actual and potential errors in the data and where possible funding values. It will also identify which reports auditors will sample from and the potential risks in those reports. This service is carried out remotely with a follow up call if further clarification is required on any observations made.

Data review with onsite training

For the enhanced review you'll get the perfect insight into how auditors use PDSAT reports and what it is they are looking for. We'll provide you with a report by report review with feedback, but we'll also come to you, present our findings and show you how we identified them. For this review you can put as many people as you wish in the room to listen and learn from our PDSAT experts.

By having this service you'll experience what our teams look for in the PDSATs and how they extract the data. You'll also pick up a few tricks on how we filter the data to easily identify possible data issues and even funding under claims.

PDSAT samples

As part of the funding assurance approach we select a sample from PDSAT reports to confirm that the underlying data that drives the ILR is accurate. Our ESFA funding assurance work over the last few years has invariably identified issues in this area as the PDSAT reports are targeting specific cohorts of learners. This can also be picked up as part of any PDSAT review.

What do I do next?

Any of these packages can be tailored to your requirements and can include question and answer options, training for senior management and governors and attendance at Audit Committee. For more information on our PDSAT review service please contact:

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