



CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

**Scottish Government school leaver
destination statistics: stakeholder
consultation findings**

February 2018

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1. Background

1.1 School leaver destination statistics

School leaver destination statistics are currently going through a period of improvement and rationalisation. This began in 2016 when it was agreed by the SDS-SG Joint Programme Board to cease the SDS June and December school leaver destination publications. This de-cluttered the publication landscape and allowed SDS to focus on development of the Annual Participation Measure.

Scottish Government currently publish *Initial Destinations of Senior Phase School Leavers* in March (S4 to S6 leavers), and initial destinations and follow-up destinations of all school leavers (S3 – S6) in the publication *Summary Statistics for Attainment, Leaver Destinations and Healthy Living* in June.

The Annual Participation Measure (APM) is now the source for the Scotland Performs National Indicator '*Increase the proportion of young people in learning, training or work*'. Therefore the APM is now the key source of data on outcomes for 16-19 year olds in line with the Scottish Government's Opportunities for All commitment.

1.2 Stakeholder consultation scope

The stakeholder consultation sought information on the use made of destination statistics and views on proposals to reduce duplication of initial destination statistics and cessation of follow-up destination statistics.

The questionnaire incorporated three sections:

- background information of respondents
- views on possible changes to the school leaver destinations
- use made of the publication and publication tables

The stakeholder consultation ran from the 6th to the 29th of September 2017. The consultation was circulated to Local Authority Directors of Education, Scotstat¹ users with a registered interest in education, and other known users of school leaver statistics.

¹ ScotStat is a network for users and providers of Scottish Official Statistics. To register with Scotstat please visit the website: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat>

2. Summary of findings

The consultation responses indicated that that the majority of users supported the proposal for Scottish Government to produce only one publication on initial destinations, and that the majority of respondents did not support the proposal for Scottish Government to stop producing follow-up destination statistics. However, there was not a consensus as to which set of initial destination statistics to cease.

The table below details the future plan for Scottish Government destination statistics, with the aim of providing consistency for users and, in time, rationalise the initial destination statistics that Scottish Government produces.

Scottish Government School Leaver Statistics Landscape, 2018 and 2019

2018 – produce the same school leaver destination statistics as in 2017:	
February 2018	Initial destinations of Senior Phase School Leavers publication, 2016/17 (2017 publication) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial destinations of Senior Phase leavers (S4-S6) • Excludes special school leavers
June 2018	Summary Statistics for Attainment, Leaver Destinations and Healthy Living, 2016/17 leaver cohort, No. 8: 2018 Edition (2017 publication) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial destinations of all school leavers (S3-S6) • Follow-up destinations of all school leavers (S3-S6) • Attainment for all school leavers (S3-S6) • Special school leaver destinations and attainment published in supplementary tables • Healthy Living Survey Results (FSM and PE)
August 2018	Publication of Annual Participation Measure for 16 – 19 year olds in Scotland 2018 by Skills Development Scotland
January to December 2018	Development work assessing feasibility of producing a measure of long-term outcomes for school leavers using SDS APM methodology.

2019 – rationalise suite of publications	
February 2019	Initial destinations of Senior Phase School Leavers publication. This will no longer be published.
February 2019	Summary Statistics for Attainment and Leaver Initial Destinations publication, 2017/18 leaver cohort <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial destinations of all school leavers (S3-S6) • Attainment for all school leavers (S3-S6) • Special school leaver destinations and attainment published in supplementary tables <p>This means a set of initial destination statistics will still be published in February and school leaver attainment data will be available four months earlier than at present.</p> <p>School leaver attainment will be linked to leavers' initial destinations.</p>
June 2019	Publication of Follow-up Destinations of all School Leavers (S3-S6) by Scottish Government, 2017/18 leaver cohort. <p>NB These data will not be published if a measure of long-term outcomes for school leavers using SDS APM methodology is available.</p>
August 2019	Publication of Annual Participation Measure for 16 – 19 year olds in Scotland 2019 by Skills Development Scotland
TBC	Publication date for Healthy Living Survey Results (FSM and PE) to be confirmed.

3. Consultation findings

3.1 Background information

Of the 40 people responding, 35 per cent responded as individuals, 63 per cent on behalf of organisation (remainder unknown). Of those responding on behalf of organisations, the majority were from local government (68 per cent).

3.2 Proposed changes to the school leaver destinations publications

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal for Scottish Government to produce one initial leaver destination publication, instead of two. Sixty per cent of respondents agreed with the proposal and 35 per cent disagreed (5 per cent no response).

Users who supported the proposal stated that they could get the information that met their requirements from alternative sources, that a sustained measure of positive destination is more meaningful and that it would reduce confusion for users.

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal to discontinue publication of follow-up destination statistics. Forty per cent of respondents agreed with the proposal and 55 per cent disagreed (5 per cent no response).

Respondents who supported the proposal stated that they could get the information that met their requirements from alternative sources, or that the Annual Participation Measure better met their needs. Respondents who did not agree with the proposal to stop publishing follow-up destinations stated that this sustained measure of positive destination is valuable data in determining trends at school, local and national level, is more meaningful than the initial destinations and/or is used for a wide range of purposes (monitoring and reporting, benchmarking, operational planning and to drive strategic decision making).

3.3 Use made of the publication and publication tables

Of the 40 responses the majority of them reported that the initial destination statistics meets their requirements fully or partially for the purposes of:

- reporting at Scotland level
- providing data on benchmarking/targets/key indicators
- assisting policy development and evaluation needs
- assisting with research and analysis
- operational planning and awareness
- general issues and trends

Twenty-five respondents said they didn't use the publication or it doesn't meet their requirements with respect to financial reporting.

Nine respondents reported that they use the initial destination statistics for other purposes. Other purposes include:

- in partnership with schools to assess how well learners' needs are being met
- reporting to parents via school handbooks

The responses to how they use the follow-up destination was very similar to the responses. Most said the follow-up statistics were partially or fully useful to their work and whereas most said follow-up destinations weren't useful with respect to financial planning.

Nine respondents said they use the follow-up destination statistics in other ways, including:

- reporting to schools
- to facilitate cross partnership working to develop focussed and targeted projects

Respondents were asked which specific publication tables they made use of. Of the respondents who provided an answer for each table, all tables listed were used by the majority of respondents with the exception of follow-up destinations by national identity where half of respondents stated they used this table and half did not.

Full consultation responses can be found in Annex A.

4. Conclusion

This report set out the findings of the Scottish Government school leaver destinations statistics stakeholder consultation. The responses have been analysed and the way forward, as detailed in Section 2, takes account of users' views, reduces duplication and increases clarity for our partners and stakeholders.

Annex B of this report sets out the current available data on school leaver destinations and young people's participation, including detail on methodology and coverage.

In addition to these data sources, local authorities and colleges can access the Skills Development Scotland 16+ Data Hub to access a combined database of information/reports on young people. For more information on the SDS 16+ Data Hub please see: <http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/partnerships/16plus-data-hub/>

Similarly, the Insight benchmarking tool is available to secondary schools and local authorities and includes statistics on initial destination of senior phase leavers. For more information on Insight please see: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/seniorphasebenchmarking>

We would like to thank everyone that responded to the stakeholder consultation.

If you have any further comments on Scottish Government school leaver destination statistics please contact school.stats@gov.scot

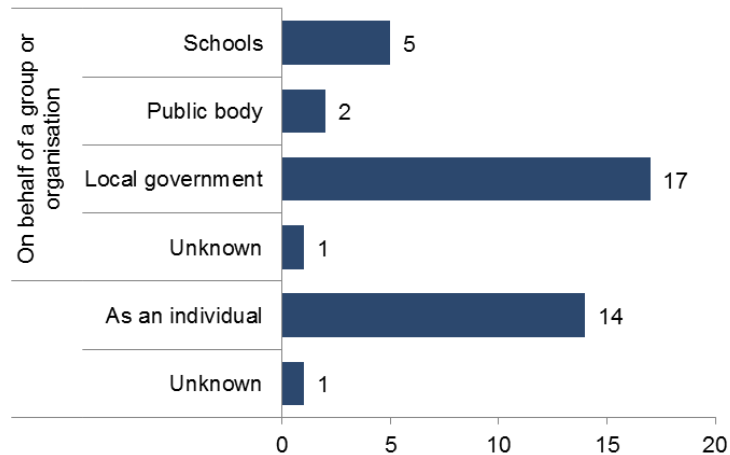
Annex A – Stakeholders Consultation Results

Section 1 – Background information supplied by respondents

Responder's profile

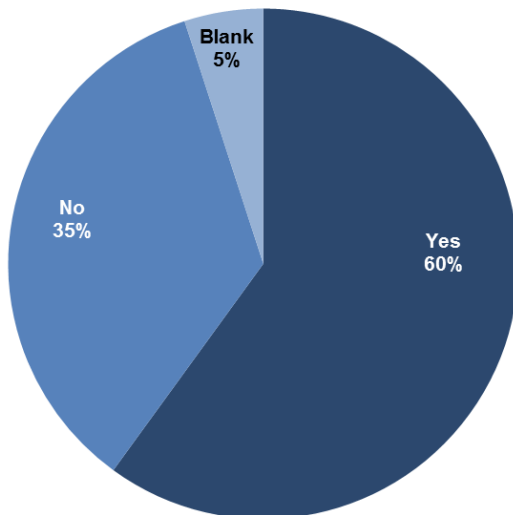
There were 40 responses, 14 as individuals, 25 on behalf of an organisation and 1 unknown.

Of the 25 responses on behalf of a group or an organisation the profile was:



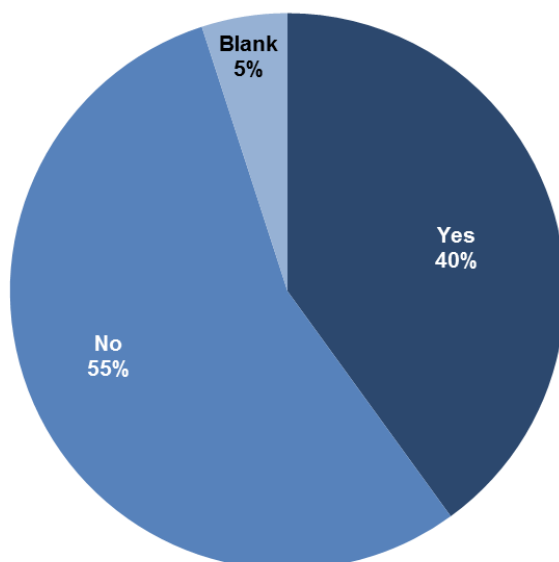
Section 2 – Overview of the proposed changes to the Leavers and Attainment publication

1. Do you agree with the proposal for Scottish Government to produce one initial leaver destination publication only?



N=40

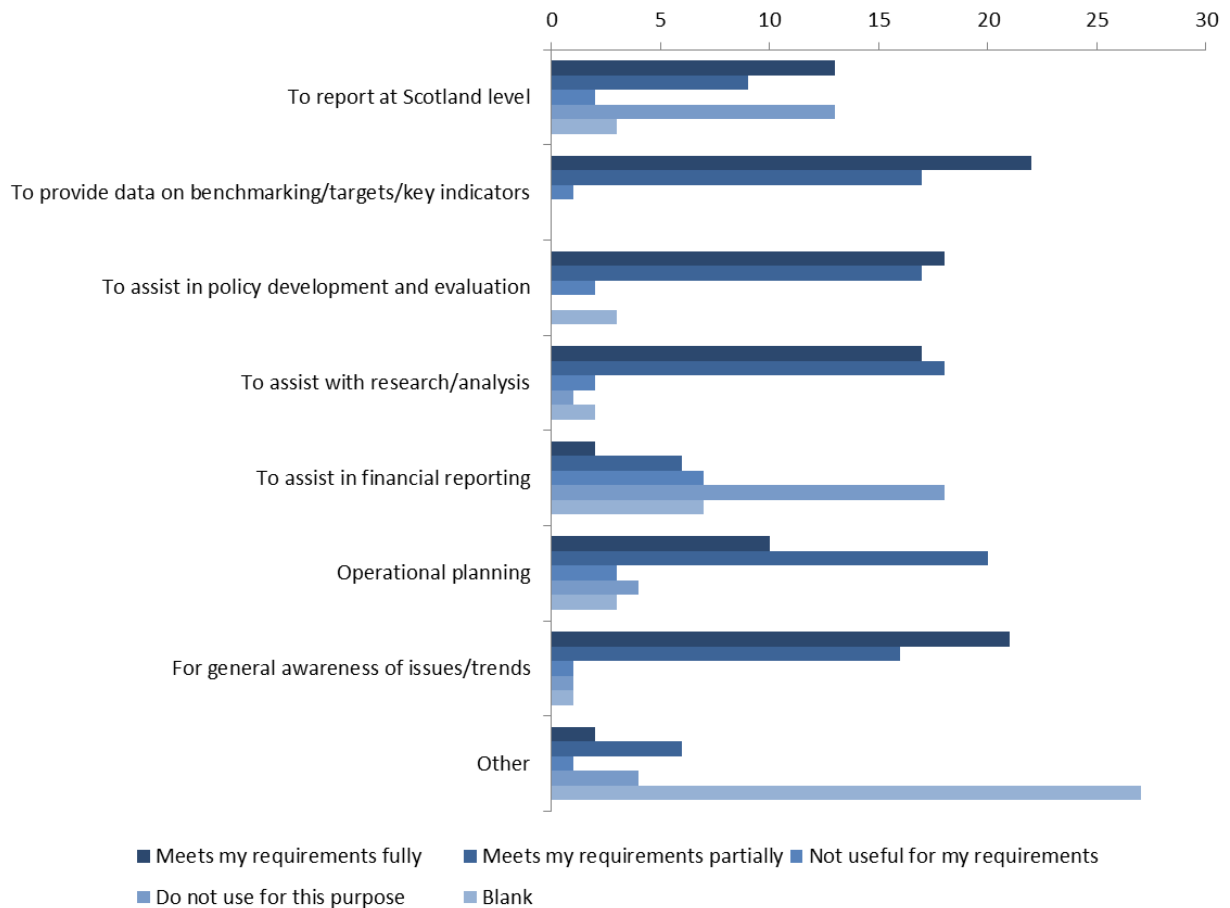
2. Do you agree with the proposal for Scottish Government to discontinue publication of follow-up destination statistics?



N=40

Section 3– Specific questions about how the publication and the tables are used

1. How do you currently use initial destination statistics in your work and how useful are they?

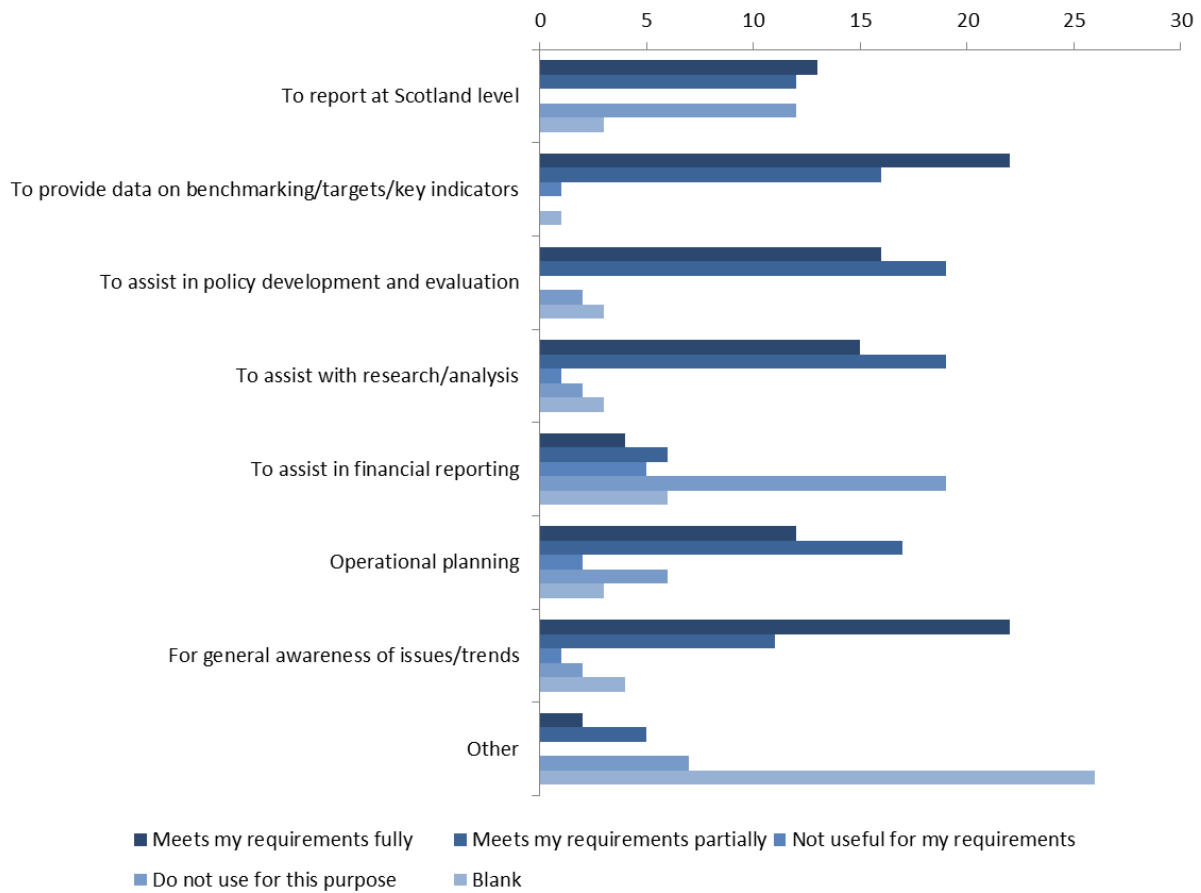


N=40

Of those who responded 'Other' to the use of the initial destination statistics, 4 people specified their use of the data.

Answer to the 'Other' requirements	Respondents answer when asked to specify
Meets my requirements fully	"Indirectly - to define the INSIGHT annual school leavers cohort. INSIGHT indicators constitute the basis of performance planning and self-evaluation at school and authority level."
Meets my requirements partially	"It would be extremely useful to have information about school leaver destinations at data zone level. It was provided in the past and was used locally for understanding and planning. Data zone level of detail is important."
	"The information is shared with parents, via our school handbook."
Not useful for my requirements	"I always use the follow up data."

2. How do you currently use follow-up destination statistics in your work and how useful are they?

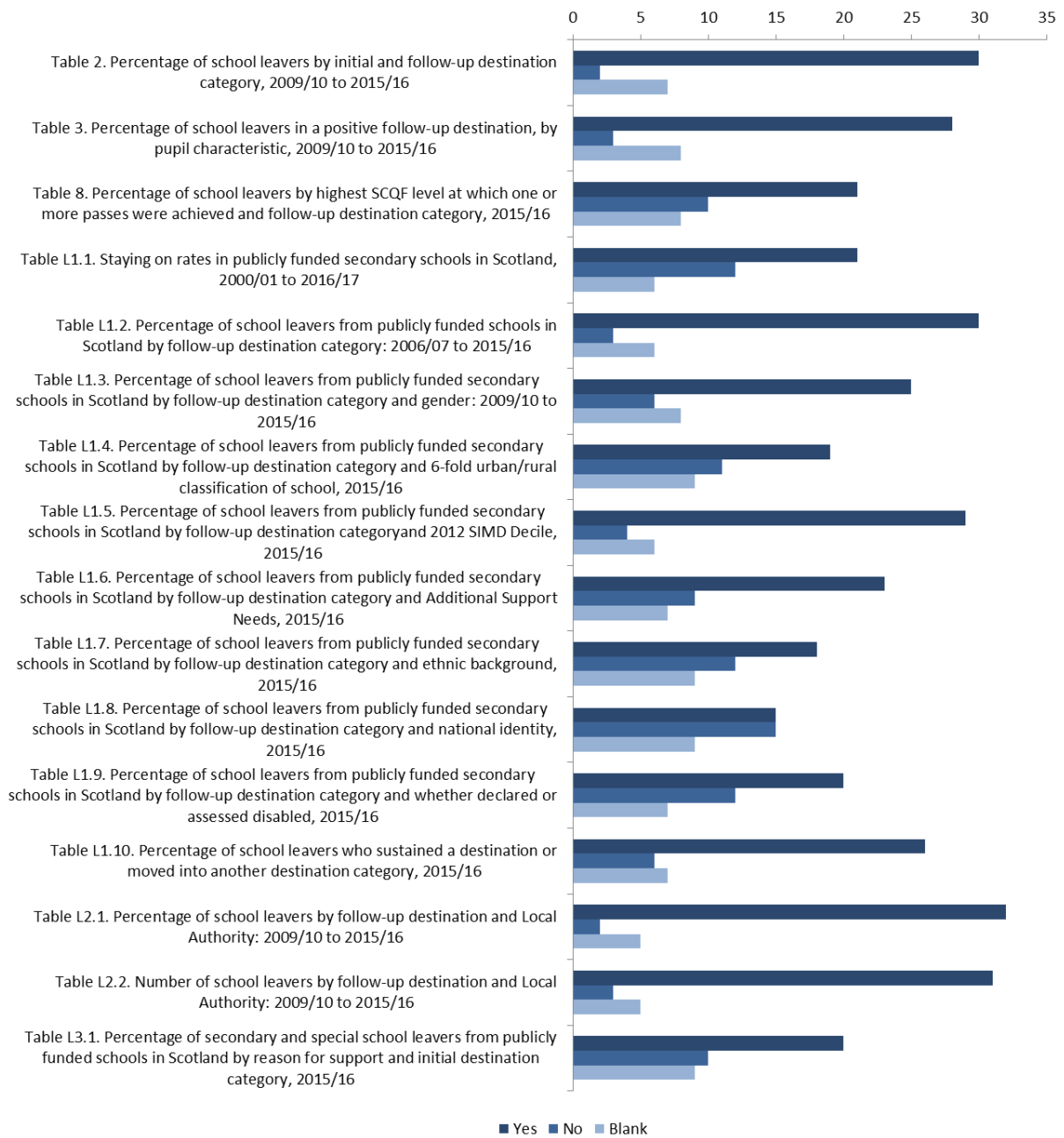


N=40

Of those who responded 'Other' to the use of the follow-up destination statistics, 4 people specified their use of the data.

Answer to the 'Other' requirements	Respondents answer when asked to specify
Meets my requirements partially	<p>"Information at data zone for follow-up destination stats is very important locally for understanding and planning. It was provided in the past and was used locally."</p> <p>"Enables cross partnership working to develop focussed and targeted projects built around the data and the Integrated Children's Services Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan"</p>
Do not use for this purpose	<p>"Individual level data fed back to the authority by SDS is used to provide schools with information on the sustainability of school leaver destinations."</p>
Blank	<p>"Comparison nationally is helpful. Providing dataset would allow statistics calculated and comparisons to be made more easily."</p>

3. Which specific tables you make use of:



N=40

Annex B – Available data on school leaver destinations and young people’s participation

Output	Initial destinations of all school leavers
Definition	Status of school leaver 3 months after leaving school
Purpose	To monitor initial outcomes of school leavers
Coverage	S3-S6 school leavers of publicly funded schools. This includes special schools and does not include independent schools.
Available in	Summary Statistics for attainment, leaver destinations and healthy living statistical report and excel tables
Use made	Informing key performance indicators, operational planning, reporting to parents
Latest data available	2015-16 school leaver cohort
Geographies	Scotland
Other breakdowns	Gender, Ethnicity SIMD, Urban Rural Classification ASN Status National Identity
Source	Opportunities for All shared dataset managed by SDS
Official Statistics status	National Statistics
Responsible producer	Scottish Government

Output	Initial destinations of senior phase school leavers
Definition	Status of school leaver 3 months after leaving school
Purpose	To monitor initial outcomes for learners leaving from the senior phase of school
Coverage	Senior phase (S4-S6) school leavers only. This does not include special schools or independent schools.
Available in	National and local authority results available in the Initial Destinations of Senior Phase School Leavers statistical report and excel tables. School level information available on Parentzone
Use made	As a benchmarking measure in Insight. Informing key performance indicators, operational planning, reporting to parents
Latest data available	2015-16 school leaver cohort
Geographies	Scotland
Other breakdowns	SIMD (national results only)
Source	Opportunities for All shared dataset managed by SDS
Official Statistics status	Official Statistics
Responsible producer	Scottish Government

Output	Follow-up destinations of all school leavers
Definition	Status of school leaver 9 months after leaving school
Purpose	To monitor sustained, positive school leaver destinations of school leavers
Coverage	S3-S6 school leavers of publicly funded schools. This does not include special schools or independent schools.
Available in	Summary Statistics for attainment, leaver destinations and healthy living statistical report and excel tables http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Pub-SS-ALM
Use made	Informing key performance indicators, monitoring and reporting, strategic decision making reporting to schools, facilitating cross partnership working and monitoring sustained, positive destinations of school leavers in line with the National Performance Framework for Scottish Education. Linkage to data on school attainment enhances the usefulness of the statistics and so helps national and local partnership collaborations to improve post-16 transition planning for young people.
Latest data available	2015-16 school leaver cohort
Geographies	Local authority
Other breakdowns	Gender Ethnicity National Identity Urban Rural Classification SIMD ASN Status
Source	Opportunities for All shared dataset managed by SDS
Official Statistics status	National Statistics
Responsible producer	Scottish Government

Output	Annual Participation Measure
Definition	Based on data covering a whole year (1 st April to 31 st March), the annual participation measure, reports the proportion of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment
Purpose	Source of Scotland Performs National Indicator: ‘Increase the proportion of young people in learning, training or work’ This determines the impact of the Scottish Government’s Opportunities for All policy
Coverage	16-19 year olds with a record on the Opportunities for All shared dataset whose status history covers the whole of the period of interest. Approximately 90% coverage of the 16-19 year old population as the shared dataset does not hold complete records of those: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending independent schools or being home schooled • Self-funding at University • Living in Scotland but with no record of publicly funded schooling or post school education in Scotland and not registered with SDS
Available in	Annual Participation Measure publication and supplementary tables.
Use made	Helps to inform policy, planning and service delivery and determine the impact of the Scottish Government’s Opportunities for All policy
Latest data available	2017
Geographies	Scotland and Local Authority
Other breakdowns	Published National & Local Authority Breakdowns Age Gender
	Published Breakdowns at a National level Ethnicity Disability SIMD Decile Urban Rural Classification
Source	Opportunities for All shared dataset managed by SDS
Responsible producer	Skills Development Scotland