

Programme and Learner Support System Data Protection Statement

In connection with your application for, and subsequent programme of study on, further education and training (FET) programme funded through SOLAS, it will be necessary to process personal data (which may be held on paper, electronically, or otherwise) about you and third parties such as your next of kin. It is important that all personal data is treated in an appropriate and lawful manner, in accordance with applicable data protection laws. The purpose of this notice is to make you aware of how such personal data will be handled in this context. You agree to make third parties whose personal data or information you disclose aware of the terms of this Data Protection Statement.

What is PLSS?

The Programme Learner Support System (PLSS) is a joint project between SOLAS (the National Further Education and Training Authority) and Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI). PLSS is a suite of software applications that are designed to provide an integrated approach to the collection and processing of personal data of users of PLSS and FET programmes funded through SOLAS, and the outputs, outcomes and performance of such programmes. FET programme providers include those entities listed in Appendix 1.

Given the permanent importance of ensuring the protection of your personal data and related rights, prior to implementing PLSS, a data protection impact assessment was conducted in consultation with the data controllers below and the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner to ensure compliance with the principles of data protection.

Who collects your data?

When you apply to attend a FET programme funded through SOLAS, personal data and information that you provide will be held by one or more of the following entities (each a "data controller" further details of which are available in Appendix 3):

· SOLAS · Your FET programme provider such as your Education Training Board (ETB) · ETBI · Higher Education Authority · Department of Education and Skills · Quality and Qualifications Ireland · Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection · Revenue Commissioners

Each data controller is committed to ensuring that the personal data of its learners are handled in accordance with the principles set out in the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003 (the "DP Acts"). If you have any queries about how your data are processed please contact dataprotection@cdebt.ie.

What data will be collected?

When you apply for a FET programme funded through SOLAS, you will be asked to provide personal data and information about yourself. The personal data will include your PPSN, first name, surname, name as per your birth certificate or passport, address, date of birth, gender, nationality, whether you are in receipt of a Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) payments and/or employment details for those of you that are in employment and/or attended higher education, whether you have previously attended a FET programme funded through SOLAS. PLSS will record the course you enrolled in and your award (if any).

Each of the data controllers will process personal data and information that you provide and, in some instances where relevant, information provided to them by third parties such as other Governmental/public sector bodies (see more about this below).

Sensitive information about you such as ethnic or cultural background, living circumstances may be requested by a data controller listed below, which you may freely decide to give or not – this is an entirely optional disclosure. If you provide this information, the data will be retained, in aggregate form, for statistical and research purposes and to compare the progress of such groups with other groups. Such statistics and research will assist in identifying gaps in the system and assisting in the development and implementation of appropriate policies (e.g. equal opportunity policies) and interventions for future learners. If you decide to provide this information you are giving your explicit permission for the data to be processed for these purposes. Further details of the data to be processed are listed in Appendix 2.

Why and how do we process the information you provide?

It is necessary to process personal data you provide in connection with your application to and attendance on a FET programme funded through SOLAS. By submitting your application you acknowledge that such personal data may be processed for those purposes, including:

1. To contact you about the application.
2. To administer the application and to assess your eligibility for a FET programme funded through SOLAS in a particular academic year.
3. To follow up with you after the application is received, as required.
4. Maintenance of your learner record (including personal and course details).
5. Management of course processes (including commencement, completion, progressions).
6. Providing advice and support through the FET provider Guidance Services, where available.
7. To contact you after the course completion in order to measure course impact in relation to your further education and training participation and/or employment.
8. To track, evaluate and assess the outcomes of the FET programme.
9. To comply with European Union monitoring and reporting requirements.

Each of the data controllers undertakes to maintain your personal data in secure conditions with appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect it from unauthorised access or use. The data held on your PLSS record will be disclosed to relevant staff of the relevant data controllers and the FET programme provider and SOLAS on a need-to-know basis. All staff are made aware of the procedures they must follow to ensure your data is appropriately protected. It may also be made available to affiliated entities, agents, service providers, advisers and data processors and other Governmental, regulatory and/or public sector bodies.

SOLAS is required under the Further Education and Training Act 2013 to (among other things) to assist in the co-ordination and provision of training by others and conduct research into the functions of SOLAS. This might include tracking involvement in, conducting impact evaluations on and assessing outcomes of FET programmes funded through SOLAS. Accordingly, pursuant to agreed protocols and arrangements, SOLAS may provide to and receive from other Governmental, regulatory and/or public bodies (including those listed in Appendix 3), limited and specific types of data about you or provided by you in your application for a FET programme. For example FET providers are required to disclose some of your personal data to SOLAS for statistical purposes. In addition, if you are attending an European Union co-funded programme the Department of Education and Skills is required to provide some of your personal data to allow monitoring, reporting and evaluating programmes to which they provide funds.

To support efficient processing of the application, a FET programme provider may need to check the accuracy of personal information you provide with external data sources. For example, if you have achieved certifications previously from another institution, the FET programme provider may need to contact the other institution(s) for confirmation of any qualifications obtained. The current list of such institutions/agencies is set out in Appendix 3.

Retention of Data

Each data controller will keep your personal data for the purposes of on-going administration, audit, and review, but only for as long as is necessary to meet the purposes set out in this notice. Each data controller will keep historical data that is no longer required for these purposes for a set time before disposal according to its data retention policy.

Your Rights

You may request, in writing, a copy of your information held by each of the data controllers. Please write to the Data Protection Compliance Officer at the relevant data controller dataprotection@cdebt.ie together with payment of the applicable fee (currently €6.35). You may be asked to prove your identity before your request is met. If you believe there may be inaccuracies identified in the information held about you, then you can contact dataprotection@cdebt.ie to have such corrected, to block certain uses or object to the processing of your personal data.

Your Queries

If you have any queries about this notice or how your data are processed please contact dataprotection@cdebt.ie.

Acknowledgement

I understand that my data will be processed for the purposes and in the manner set out in this notice and will make third parties whose personal data or information I disclose aware of the terms of this Data Protection Statement.

Appendix 1

Education and Training Boards

City of Dublin Education and Training Board
Donegal Education and Training Board
Kerry Education and Training Board
Cork Education and Training Board
Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board
Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board
Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board
Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board
Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board
Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board
Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board
Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board
Louth and Meath Education and Training Board
Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board
Tipperary Education and Training Board
Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board

Other Providers

National Adult Literacy Association
Irish Deaf Society

Community, Voluntary and Secondary Schools

St Louis Community School, Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo
Coláiste Chiaráin, Summerhill, Athlone, Co. Roscommon
Our Lady's College, Presentation Road, Galway City

Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare
Scoil Mhuire, Ennistymon, Co. Clare
North Presentation Secondary School, Farranree, Cork
Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
Nagle Rice Secondary School, Doneraile, Co. Cork
Central College, Sexton Street, Limerick
Sancta Maria College, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo
Nagle Centre Presentation Secondary School, Cannon Street, Waterford
Donahies Community School, Streamville Road, Dublin 13
Scoil Bernadette, Montenotte, Cork
St Michaels, Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon.
Coláiste Mhuire, Ballygar, Co. Galway
St Cuan's College, Castleblakeney, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Mean Scoil Mhuire, Newtownsmith, Galway
St. Joseph's College, Summerhill, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
Our Lady's Secondary School, Belmullet, Co. Mayo
Jesus & Mary Secondary School, Enniscrone, Co. Sligo
Mercy College, Sligo
St. Patrick's Comprehensive School, Shannon, Co. Clare
Community School, Cabinteely, Dublin 18
St. Aidan's Community School, Brookfield, Tallaght, Dublin 24
St. Tiernan's Community School, Parkvale, Sandyford, Dublin 16
Community School, Tullow, Co. Carlow
Community School, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny
Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara, Carna, Co. Galway
Clifden Community School, Clifden, Co. Galway
Community School, Dunmore, Co. Galway
Ramsgrange Community School, New Ross, Co. Wexford
Community School, Kilrush, Co. Clare
Community School Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo
Gorey Community School, Gorey, Co. Wexford

Appendix 2

Data Items

PPSN
First Name
Last Name
Gender
Date of Birth
Address
County
eMail
Mobile
Phone
Nationality
Country of Birth
Follow Up Consent
Length of Residency In Ireland
Highest Formal Education (Award)
Highest Formal Education (Level)
Highest Formal Level field (ISCED)
Highest Formal Level Institution Type
Highest Formal Level Country
Highest Formal Level Duration
Highest Formal Level Year
Level of English Proficiency
Non Formal (0-N) Type, Level, Field, Institution, Delivery Mode, Delivery Method, Duration
Literacy Level
Numeracy Level
ICT Literacy
Funding
Referral/EOI Source
Formal Education History (0-N) Award, Level, Field, Institution, Country, Duration
Non Formal Education History (0-N) Type, Level, Field, Institution, Duration
RPL
Driver's License
Irish Speaker
Other Languages
Economic Status-current
Economic status - current: start date
If employed, current employment: type
If employed, current employment: tenure
If employed, current employment: occupation
If employed, current employment: sector
If employed, current employment: duration with current employer
If unemployed, previous employment
If unemployed, previous employment: type
If unemployed, previous employment: tenure
If unemployed, previous employment: occupation
If unemployed, previous employment: sector
If unemployed, previous employment: duration with last employer
Total work experience: length of time in paid employment (including current employer, if employed)

If unemployed: DEASP PEX score (probability of exit)
Employment history (0-N): type, tenure, occupation, sector, duration
On Live Register
In receipt of jobseekers benefit
In receipt of jobseekers benefit: duration
In receipt of job seeker allowance
In receipt of job seeker allowance: duration
In receipt of credits (Live Register)
In receipt of credits: duration
In receipt of back to work allowance
In receipt of back to work allowance: duration
In receipt of back to education allowance
In receipt of back to education allowance: duration
In receipt of training allowance
In receipt of training allowance: duration
In receipt of one-parent family payment
In receipt of one-parent family payment: duration
In receipt of farm assistance
In receipt of farm assistance: duration
In receipt of rural social scheme
In receipt of rural social scheme: duration
In receipt of back to work enterprise allowance
In receipt of back to work enterprise allowance: duration
In receipt of family income supplement
In receipt of family income supplement: duration
In receipt of continued child payment
In receipt of continued child payment: duration
In receipt of any other welfare payment
In receipt of any other welfare payment: type
In receipt of any other welfare payment: duration
Welfare payment history (0-N): type, duration
Homeless
Disability
Parenting/caring duties
In receipt of a disability welfare payment
In receipt of a disability welfare payment: duration
In need of learner supports
Type of learner support required
Refugee
Asylum seeker
Member of a Minority Group
Eligibility Outcome
Suitability Outcome
Start Date
Finish Reason
Progression/Placement
Medical Card Number
Medical Card Expiry Date
Parental Consent

Appendix 3

·Department of Education and Skills ·Revenue Commissioners: Confirmation of employment or self-employment and parameters of income details (where available)
·Department of Employment affairs and Social Protection: To validate information on applicants in receipt of social welfare payments ·Quality and Qualifications Ireland: To verify information regarding applicant's certification outputs as a result of attending a FET Programme ·Higher Education Authority (HEA): To verify and validate applicants who progress to higher education.
·Education and Training Boards: To verify and validate details of applicants who progress to further education

