

LMI for All

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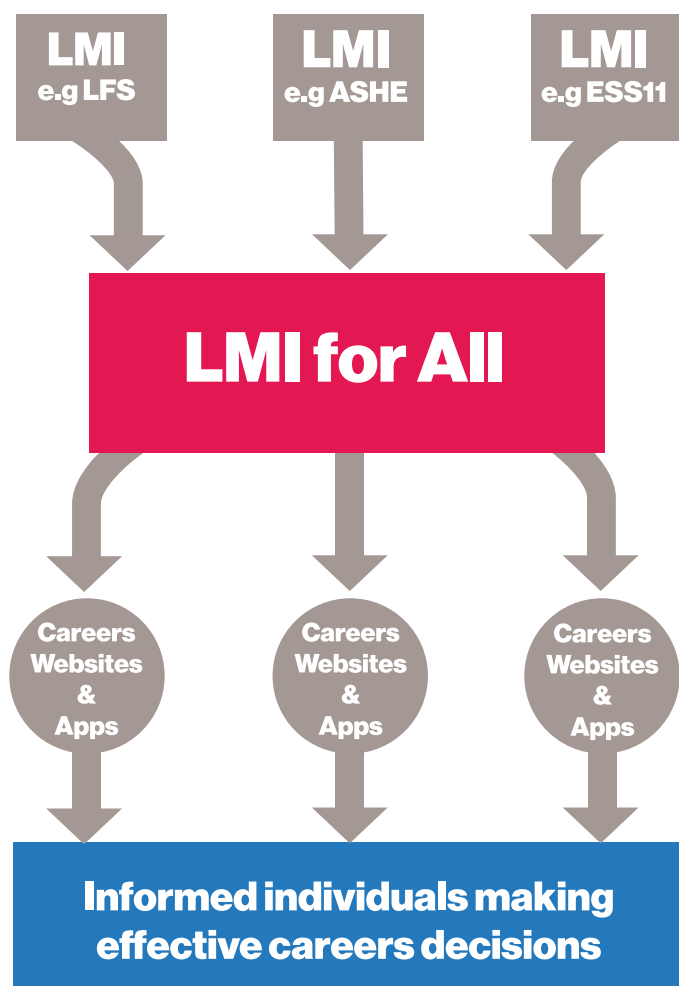
Briefing Paper

What is LMI for All?

LMI for All is a data tool that the UK Commission for Employment and Skills is developing to bring together existing sources of labour market information (LMI) that can inform people's decisions about their careers.

The outcome won't be a new website for individuals to access but a tool that seeks to make the data freely available and to encourage open use by applications and websites which can bring the data to life for varying audiences.

At heart this is an open data project, which will support the wider government agenda to encourage use and re-use of government data sets.



What will the benefits be?

The data tool will put people in touch with some of the most robust LMI from our national surveys/sources therefore providing a common and consistent baseline for people to use alongside wider intelligence.

The data tool will have an access layer which will include guidance for developers about what the different data sources mean and how they can be used without compromising quality or confidentiality. This will help ensure that data is used appropriately and encourage the use of data in a form that suits a non-technical audience.

What LMI sources will be included?

The data tool will include LMI that can answer the questions people commonly ask when thinking about their careers, including 'what do people get paid?' and 'what type of person does that job?'. It will include data about characteristics of people who work in different occupations, what qualifications they have, how much they get paid, and allow people to make comparisons across different jobs.

The first release of the data tool will include information from the Labour Force Survey and the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. We will be consulting with other organisations that own data during the project to extend the range of LMI available through the data tool.

Opposite: The diagram explains where the LMI for All tool will be placed and how it will lead to effective decision making on careers by individuals.

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Where did the idea come from?

This built on an initial proposition made by Sir John Holman in October 2011 as part of the government's Growth Review. The core focus of Holman's recommendations was on making high quality LMI accessible to users, particularly learners and their parents, to enable better, more informed decisions about careers, education and training options.

We carried out a feasibility study which reported to the then Skills Minister John Hayes in April 2012. The feasibility study included development of a prototype data tool which was tested by developers. This work concluded that development of a data tool could offer real value in improving access to data to help individuals make better decisions about learning and work.

When will the data tool be available?

The first version of the data tool should be available in May 2013. This will be fully functional *but not fully automated*. This version will be tested, data sources added, and the data tool developed further.

The revised version of the data tool should be available in early 2014 and a fully functional, automated and tested version by April 2015.

How will we achieve this?

Stage 1: Development, enhancement and joint working to increase the accessibility of existing data sources: working with and developing partnership and agreements with core data owners.

Stage 2: Development of the data tool: the data tool will be structured around the UK's Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. The data tool will be developed in a way that allows additional data sources to be added over time without the need for any fundamental changes to the structure.

Stage 3: Testing with end users: the database will be developed in continued and close consultation with end users to ensure that it meets their needs. In particular this will allow the development of a 'social layer' to the database involving detailed guidance to using the data, FAQs and support.

Stage 4: Enhancing and developing new data sources: further exploratory work will be undertaken to explore the feasibility and value of deploying data at a more detailed level (e.g. development of 5-digit SOC codes, integration of data from the US O*NET system).

Ongoing: Engagement of partners: we will engage with a range of partners throughout the project including owners of data sources, website developers, government departments and organisations, the wider careers community and other interested organisations.



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