higher education
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Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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VALPAC CHANGES AND UPDATES

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VALPAC UPDATES

- Currently there are two versions of Valpac, the SQL version and MSAccess. The only institution that is permitted to use the SQL version currently is UNISA due to the fact that their database is too big for MSAccess.

- The installation package for the SQL version was proving problematic at the DHET, therefore we did not want to release it in case institutions experienced the same problems when installing it.

- This meant that the DHET has had to maintain two versions of Valpac, the MSAccess version and the SQL version resulting in additional costs.

- Going forward the SQL version will be released to all institutions and only this version will be maintained.

VALPAC UPDATES

- New qualification codes and course codes for element 005 and element 034 have been implemented in Valpac for 2015.

- The new education cesms have been included in Valpac.

- The institution names have been corrected, e.g DUT and WSU

- The reports have been developed reflecting the qualification types, with the B Tech being separated out into its own column. The Advanced Diploma have been incorporated into the same column. We may have to re-look the columns in line with proposals put forward in the annexure of the draft gazette on the revised funding framework. This has delayed the final testing as the reports will have to be redone, particularly table 2.12 and 2.13.

VALPAC UPDATES

- UP are using the new version of Valpac to run their 2015 data and will provide the DHET with their ascii files for testing. If there are any other institutions ready to work on their 2015 data, they can contact the DHET and Praxis will be authorised to give them access to the new version, however, it must be borne in mind that the DHET has not finished their quality assurance testing so any problems that arise must be reported to the DHET and Praxis to ensure that the software programme is corrected, not just for the institution currently working with the test version.

- Once the DHET is confident that the software is ready for release Praxis will be instructed to create an installation CD which will be tested and thereafter a CD will be distributed to all institutions. However, institutions will also be given the opportunity of downloading the latest version from the Praxis website

VALPAC UPDATES

- Praxis has been updating the help files and the DHET will be checking these during the quality assurance process. However, there is still a need to relook the glossary. If there are any further delays in finalising the software due to draft gazette on the revised funding formula then the DHET would have to consider an extension on the October due date.

- The new version will not have the proposed changes for the PCS as the comments have to be considered and then institutions must be given time to implement the changes in their system. The changes will probably on be implemented in 2017.

RANKING OF QUALIFICATION TYPES

REPORTS

- TABLE 2.12

- TABLE 2.13

- TABLE 2.7

- FTE TABLES

AUDIT CHANGES

- The following audit changes were required this year:-

  – Element 046 staff qualification

  – Sign off on report 3.4

  – Sign off on table 2.7

  The changes to the audit guidelines will continuously be updates as and when required by the Auditor General and eventually in terms of the revised funding formula.

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU