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## Background

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LMI for All is an online data service, developed by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, which brings together existing national sources of high quality, reliable labour market information (LMI) that can inform people's choices about their careers. The service has been developed with the support of a consortium led by the Institute for Employment Research at the University of Warwick.

LMI for All is not a website. It makes data freely available via a single access point to power third-party applications and websites that can bring the data to life for varying audiences, including individuals, careers practitioners, employers and policy makers. At heart this is an open data project, which supports the wider government agenda to encourage use and re-use of government data sets.

Currently, the service provides core data on earnings, employment levels (current and projected) and vacancies. We have also added data from the US O\*Net database relating to the skills, abilities and interests needed to do particular jobs together with data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency on graduate entry routes into occupations.

LMI for All data helps to 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?', and allows users to make comparisons across different jobs, located within different industry sectors and regions.

Examples of how LMI for All is currently being used include an online labour market dashboard, developed by [RCU](#) to support colleges and the [iCould](#) careers site, which presents analysis of data from LMI for All alongside job-specific careers videos and articles. National Careers Service contractor Adviza is now using LMI for All data, with Prospects also in the process of integrating the data into their service. Careers website [Plotr](#) have also recently launched the inclusion of LMI for All in their website.

In November 2013, we launched CareerHack, an international app competition based on LMI for All data. CareerHack invited developers to create innovative apps using LMI for All data. The apps were judged by a panel comprised of representatives from Google, Ubuntu, HP and the John Lewis Partnership, as well as Dr Deirdre Hughes OBE, Chair of the National Careers Council. The winners of CareerHack were announced by the Minister of State for Skills and Enterprise, Matthew Hancock MP on March 31, 2014.

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## Progress Update

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- Good progress has been made on the development of the LMI for All data offering and a comprehensive range of datasets are now available.
- The datasets are organised by occupation at the 4-digit unit group level using the Standard Occupational Classification (2010). An intuitive search facility is in place which enables end-users to connect to data relating to the job that they are interested in.

- The data offering is underpinned by a secure, robust and accessible technical infrastructure, accessible through an API (application programming interface).
- The infrastructure performs well with regard to service availability / down-time and response times for database queries. We have also received consistent feedback from developers to the effect that the API is accessible and easy to use.
- The functionality of the LMI for All API has been tested extensively through a programme of hack and modding days. These events also provided a setting for developers to create applications to demonstrate the potential of the API and to elicit feedback from careers stakeholders on their suitability and relevance.
- The level of usage of the service has seen rapid growth this year. The latest figures show that LMI for All is now averaging well over 1,000 unique visitors per day (weekend days excluded). This equates to the number of end-users of the data, who access it via third party websites and applications. By comparison there were fewer than 50 unique users most days during the first quarter of 2014.

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## **Future of LMI for All**

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In October 2014, UKCES Commissioners took the decision that the UK Commission should continue to own and manage the project following the end of the pilot phase in March 2015. The decision was informed by the results of a consultation with key policy stakeholders and an assessment of the performance of the pilot. We are now putting in place plans for the longer term development of the service.

Stakeholder engagement will continue to be a priority with the aim being to maximise take up of LMI for All by third party websites and apps and to promote usage of existing outlets such as iCould.

In addition, we are exploring with relevant stakeholders the potential non-careers applications of LMI for All, including use of the data in informing strategic planning by Local Enterprise Partnerships and in the development of curriculum strategies by colleges.

We are also in the process of developing a simple widget which can be easily embedded into third party websites in order to widen the audience for the service. The widget will provide high level data from LMI for All on wages and projected employment, allowing users to compare two or three jobs at once. We expect the widget to be available by the end of 2014.

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## **Further Information**

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