

**STATISTICS - STUDENT SUPPORT APPLICATIONS TO STUDENT
FINANCE ENGLAND**
Notice of reversion to annual publication

These statistics were published in October 2009 to allow for progress with processing student support applications from English domiciled applicants to be monitored on a frequent basis. They supplemented statistics on approvals and payments of student support, which are published each November in *Student Support for Higher Education in England*. The statistics have been published bi-weekly in 2010, and monthly in 2011 and 2012.

The reporting of the statistics was introduced on a more frequent basis in response to increasing public interest in the processing of student support applications. A number of students were affected by delays in processing their applications and therefore did not receive payments until after the start of term. The context for these delays was that in 2009 the Student Loans Company created a new centralised operation to take over the processing of new applications for student support from the English Local Authorities. These processing difficulties have been well documented in Public Accounts Committee reports.

The performance issues that prompted the release of statistics on a more frequent basis have not been evident in subsequent years, so after having considered the low levels of usage, and feedback received on the applications statistics, the decision has been taken between BIS and SLC to discontinue the publication of bi-weekly statistics on processing of student support applications.

Statistics on the level of take-up of student support products will continue to be published annually on the Student Loans Company website: <http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics.aspx>. This National Statistics publication, available in November each year, enables comparisons between years of the number of applicants approved for student support.

SLC continues to monitor its performance with the processing of student support applications within the company and shares that information with the key stakeholder groups, and such management information can be made available on request.