



## **PMR**

Many Take2 clients will have received their PMR (Progress Monitoring Report) this week from TEC. A number of clients have approached us asking to comment on the reliability of these reports.

As you might expect we do have some comments and they are provided below.

## **Are the PMRs reliable?**

The short answer to this question is “who knows?” However a careful analysis for one client resulted in us sending the following email:

Hi J

I have, as you requested, analysed the PMR sent to you by TEC. I have compared the figures for three items against those that are stored in your Take2 database and those on the SDR summaries that you supplied.

As the attached Excel file shows it is as you suspected. The PMR is inaccurate. It understates qualification completions and, whilst course completion ratios on the PMR match what is on STEO, the underlying numbers do not. In Take2 there are however different numbers and different percentages. EFTS figures do match.

Interestingly the STEO web site provides various qualification completion counts as you will see for the 2008 year where you can have either 30 or 79. In Take2 you have 76. The PMR shows 17!

My advice to you is to draw these discrepancies to TEC’s attention and ask them to provide you with the full set of data from which they compiled the PMR. Once you have that data forward it to me and I will match it to the Take2 database.

I am currently working with a much larger client who has the same problem with qualification completions. In part the

problem arises because TEC has not published how it determines ratios but what is clear is that the PMRs are using inaccurate raw data on qualification completions and probably course completions.

It seems to me – and this is a point I have made and will make again to the Minister – that TEC cannot reliably use the progress monitoring data (nor any SSP or KPI measurements from earlier years).

Kind regards

## **What to do?**

We suggest that you focus on the *TEO Completions* column in the table in section 3.2.1. Is the absolute count of completions correct for each year?

Checking course completion rates is more difficult because TEC has neglected to tell us whether their ratios apply only to “01” funding or whether they also apply to all funding sources for which course completions are reported.

You can check EFTS counts by re-running the December SDR for previous years in Take2.

Of course you should also be able to check the PMR against SDR Summary reports and, in a sense, this will be the most telling test.

In any event, if there are discrepancies you do need to tell TEC as advised in the PMR (bottom of page 4). Ask them to provide you with the full set of data from which they compiled the PMR. Insist that they send it to you. Compare that data with what is in Take2.



And finally it was revealed that the Emperor really had no clothes!