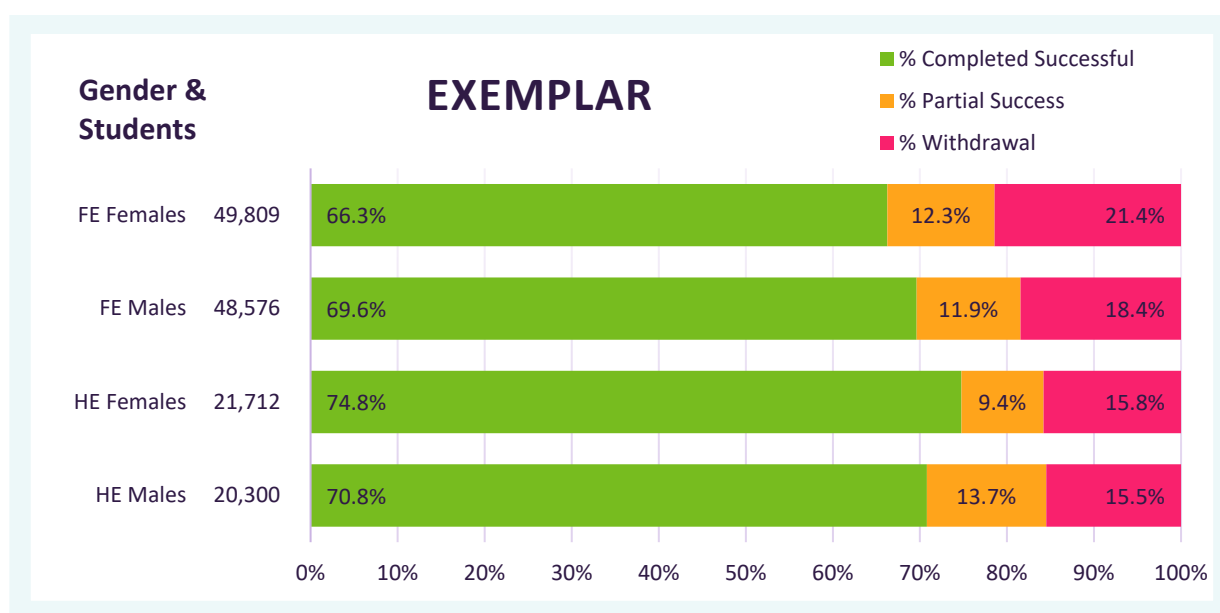

Appendix A: An explanation of our performance indicators

1. Colleges provide the SFC with details of the courses that they deliver and the students who enrol on these courses. This data includes details of the student's results at the end of the academic year or withdrawal date if the student does not make it to the end of the course.
2. These individual outcomes are described in more detail below:
 - **Completed successful:** indicates that the student has completed the course year. If this is a one year course (which is true of most courses) the student will have gained the qualification they were aiming for. If the student was on a course of more than one year and was not in the final year they will have progressed to the next year of study and achieved at least 70% of the units studied in the current year.
 - **Completed partial success:** indicates that the student completed the programme but did not gain the qualification. This could mean that the student has passed all units except one, or did not pass any units at all. It is generally accepted, however, that the student will have gained some benefit from completing their studies. There will also be instances where a student enrolls at college to gain the qualifications to proceed to university. For example, they may enrol to study four Highers but then receive a conditional offer from a university based on passing just two Highers. In that scenario the student may decide to withdraw from two of the Highers to concentrate on passing the two required for entry to their university course.
 - **Withdrawal** indicates that the student withdrew from their studies before the programme ended. There are two withdrawal figures: Early and Further as explained below and it is only now the further withdrawal figure that is presented in the PI publication, following the outcome of a recent [consultation](#) on this matter.
 - **Early withdrawal** indicates that the student has withdrawn from the programme before 5 weeks of the course has elapsed, for courses 20 weeks or more in duration. For shorter courses, the threshold is after 25% of the course. SFC does not provide activity funding for students who leave before this date (also known as the funding qualifying date). These students may have left to take up a place at another college or higher education institution, to start a job or perhaps because they found they were unable to continue their studies for financial reasons or because they found the course unsuitable. Colleges often have waiting lists for their courses as they can be oversubscribed. However, it is often too late to replace students with someone from the waiting list at the time of withdrawal.

- Further withdrawal indicates that the student attended after the funding qualifying date but withdrew from their studies before the programme ended. The SFC pays the same price for students in this category as they do for a student who completes their programme.

Appendix B: How our performance indicators are presented

1. After a public consultation with users of the College Performance Indicators publication in summer 2024, the presentation of the performance indicators will be updated from 2023-24.
2. The main changes are the removal of those students with an 'Early Withdrawal' from the denominator in the calculation of proportion of enrolments completing successfully.



3. The bar to the left (green) shows the percentage of students who have completed their course year successfully. This includes students who have progressed to a later year for multi-year courses.
4. The following student outcomes for nationally recognised programmes are considered to have completed successfully:
 - Completed programme / course, student assessed and successful.
 - Student has progressed to next year and has achieved 70% of the credits undertaken.
 - Student has achieved 70% of the credits undertaken but has chosen not to progress onto the next year.
 - Student completed first year of a Higher National Diploma (HND) but has chosen to leave with a Higher National Certificate (HNC).
 - Student is on an interim year of a multi-year VQ programme and is on-track and is still participating in the college programme.
5. The middle bar (orange) shows the percentage of students who have completed their course year but are not considered to be fully successful. For example, the student may have failed to achieve one or more units required for the course. The following two

student outcomes are considered to have completed (with partial success):

- Completed programme / course, student assessed but not successful.
 - Student has progressed to next year but did not gain 70% of the credits undertaken.
6. The combination of these two bars shows the total percentage to have completed the course. For example, the FE Females bars shows that 66.3% of students completed successfully and a further 12.3% irrespective of the result. Therefore 78.6% completed the course in total.
 7. The bar to the right (pink) represents those students who withdrew from their course after the funding qualifying date and for FE Females this shows that 21.4% of students withdrew from their course during the academic year.

Note: we will make available to colleges the volume of students withdrawing early from their course.

8. The number of students enrolled on these courses is shown for each academic year to the left of the bar chart.

Appendix C: Performance Indicator calculations

Examples

1. The PIs included within this publication are intended to provide an overview of the student journey from day one to the end of the programme.
2. This example refers to a full-time computing course but the same calculations would be applied for full-time, part-time or day release courses.

100 people have enrolled on the course which runs from September 2024 to June 2025 over 36 teaching weeks. Holidays do not count as teaching weeks.

Two students drop out in the first week, one because they were offered a job and the other because they felt the course was not as they had hoped.

Another **three** students drop out in week 3, 2 because they had applied for student support only to find that the means testing had shown they were ineligible and therefore unable to fund their living expenses. The other withdrew because they were offered a place at University starting in October.

Two more students dropped out in week 4 because they found the course too difficult.

All other students continued their studies until week 8 when a further **three** students withdrew. Two of these students simply stopped attending and the other was fortunate enough to start work with a local IT company.

Our funding qualifying date is reached on the 1st of November. By this point the 10 students discussed above have withdrawn from their studies.

The **Early withdrawal** indicator would therefore be derived by working out the volume of withdrawals prior to the funding qualifying date of all enrolments.

We know that 110 students started on the course and that 10 withdrew before the funding qualifying date therefore they are not included in our performance indicators.

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SFC does not pay the college any teaching grant for these 10 students.

Although withdrawals are seen as a negative indicator our example above shows that two students actually left to commence employment and another to take up a place at University. Most people, probably including the students in question, would not see these as negative outcomes and the reader should be aware that students withdraw for various reasons.

No one drops out in week 9 or 10 but this still leaves 26 weeks to go until the end of the course.

The **first** student to drop out after the funding qualifying date withdraws in week 11 but they don't tell the college why they have chosen to stop their studies.

Another **one** student drops out in week 13 and a further **three** in week 14. One of these students has left to start a new job another for personal reasons and the remaining two as the course has become too difficult.

The Christmas holidays begin in week 15 and unfortunately **five** students simply don't return after the holiday period.

Exams begin in February which is week 18 and another **three** students withdraw before the second semester begins.

There are no more withdrawals until the Easter holidays when **one** more student decides to stop attending as they were behind with their studies.

One final student withdraws in week 32 for personal reasons.

In total that's **15** additional students who have withdrawn between the funding qualifying date and the end of the programme. One of these was to start a job.

Another of our main indicators is the number of students who withdraw between the funding qualifying date and the end of the programme. The **Further withdrawal** indicator would therefore be derived by working out the percentage of withdrawals between the funding qualifying date and the end of the programme.

We know that 110 students started on the course and that 10 withdrew early. That leaves 100 students. Of those, 25 withdrew between the funding qualifying date and the end of the course therefore this means 25% withdrew after the funding qualifying date and did not complete their course.

Further withdrawal = $25 / 100 = 25\%$

3. Our PIs are designed to differentiate between those who complete and achieve the qualification they were aiming for and those who complete but with a lesser level of success.
4. Our PIs include the following outcomes for those completing their programmes of study:

Code	Description
07	Completed programme/course, student assessed but not successful.
08	Completed programme/course, student assessed and successful.
17	Student has progressed to next year but did not gain 70% of the credits undertaken.
18	Student has progressed to next year and has achieved 70% of the credits undertaken.
20	Student has achieved 70% of the credits undertaken but has chosen not to progress onto the next year.

Code	Description
22	Student completed first year of an HND but has chosen to leave with an HNC.

25 Student is on an interim year of a multi-year VQ programme and is on-track and is still participating in the college programme.

If a student has their result coded as 07 or 17 above they are considered to have completed with partial success. These students may have passed all but one unit or no units but they are still likely to have gained some benefit from completing their studies.

In our computing example 20 students have been coded as either codes 07 or 17 and therefore are considered to have completed with partial success.

Completed: Partial success = $20 / 100 = 20\%$

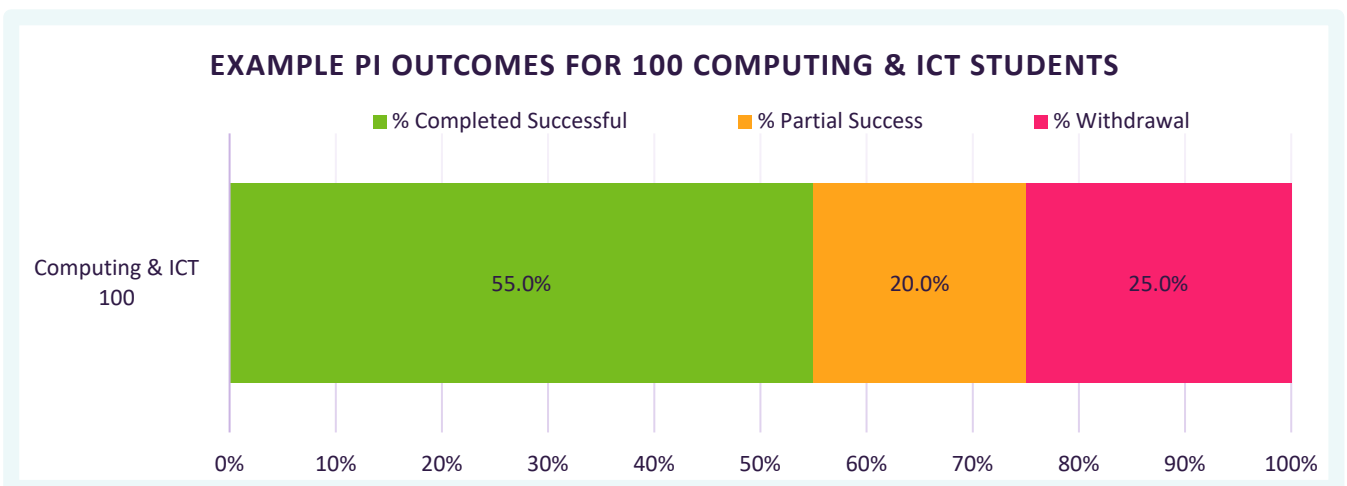
We have already established that our early withdrawal rate was 10% our further withdrawal rate 15% and now our completed: Partial Success rate 20%.

This would of course mean that 55 of the initial 100 enrolments gained the qualification they aimed for:

Completed: Successful = $55 / 100 = 55\%$

These three groups are the building blocks of our PIs. The SFC believes that these three indicators are best viewed as a whole and therefore these data are presented as separate parts of a bar-chart. An example is shown below:

- The 55% refers to those completing successfully and the second percentage shows those



completing with partial success. Therefore of the 75% of students completing the programme 55% completed successfully and 20% completed with partial success. The remaining 25% of students withdrew during the academic year and did not complete their programme of study.