

e-KSF Version 5.2 Launched on 8th May 07

The e-KSF team has an ongoing development programme for the e-KSF system, based on your valuable user feedback. We aim to release a new version of e-KSF roughly every 6 months.

The next version of e-KSF (version 5.2) is scheduled to be launched on Monday 7th May. This update doesn't require any effort from your side – just log in as usual to see the new features. The updated system has been thoroughly tested, and is straightforward to use – we don't expect you to have to retrain anyone because of these new features.

All users will benefit from the many usability enhancements, efficiency, better performance and improvements to current functions.

- The major modification for version 5.2 is a collection of new reports for e-KSF administrators, SHA Administrator and Managers. You can read more about these reports in the rest of this document.
- You will also find extensive changes in the functionality and enhancements to the usability of links and features related to ESR/e-KSF link present on our tool. These changes will only be visible to those trusts which are either live or going to go live in near future on the ESR/e-KSF link.

Of course, development doesn't stop here. We are already working on our next major release – version 6.0, in the autumn of 2007 – with a wide range of new features.

	v5.2 Feature	Benefits
1	Introduction of organisational "Reports User"	This new role provides a set of organisational reports (similar to the administrator reports page) but with no access to the other admin functions. E-KSF admins can set up new reports users via new link on the e-KSF homepage.
2	Introduction of SHA Report User	This new role has access to a subset of the SHA reports. Again, e-KSF SHA administrators can set up new reports users via their homepage
3	Enhancements in features of ESR/e-KSF link	The e-KSF/ESR link for England and Wales has been revamped, so administrators can now process ESR data more efficiently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email addresses of staff can now be uploaded using a data file. • A facility to <i>ignore</i> personal and assignment conflicts has been added. • The Assignment Conflict resolution screens now display personal information in order to identify staff.
4	Printer friendly printouts and reports	The background colour of reports and post outline printouts has been changed from grey to white, easing the readability.
5	Enhancements in reviewer rights	Version 5.2 will allow a reviewer to conduct multiple reviews per year, even in gateway years (prior to 5.2, a reviewer could only conduct one review in a gateway year)
6	Enhancements in e-KSF administrator rights	Version 5.2 allows the e-KSF administrator to make minor edits to post outlines before approving them (saving the "to-ing and fro-ing" that could happen when there were minor typos in post outlines). Users can also enter the "estimated number of staff covered by an outline" which is useful for tracking the progress of post outline production.

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7	Security enhancements to e-KSF	E-KSF now requires users to input characters displayed in an image when they request a password reminder. This reduces the threat of any automated "login name guessing".
8	Enhancements in UK competence module	NOS, National Workforce Competences and other UK competences are now included in KSF post outline printouts. The user interface for the UK competence pages has been updated providing more information in order to improve usability.
9	New reports package	A wide range of new e-KSF reports are now on-line, for administrators and also managers. Managers now have a new "view reports" link to view the KSF progress and data for people in their immediate team. (later this year, we'll also have reports to allow managers to view data for everyone in their management structure) You can read more about new reports for managers, administrators and the new "reports-only user" in the "v5.2 reports directory" available here: http://www.e-ksfnow.org/Administrators.htm

We hope you find this new release of e-KSF valuable and easy to use – all the changes we've made have been based on user feedback.

If you have any further ideas for future development of e-KSF please let us know! (Log in to the system, click "support" and then "propose system changes". From here you can enter a suggestion).

With best wishes,

The e-KSF Development Team
May 2007