

AD2023_03 - Reason for Confirmation Delay (Pending) - Link Products (UG)

Technical Briefing Document

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Terms used:

‘HEP’ – Higher Education Provider

‘UG’ – UCAS Undergraduate admissions scheme

Supporting documents

This document should be used in conjunction with:

[Decision processing manual](#) – for details on application transactions

[2022 Undergraduate Admissions Guide](#) – including detailed information about the procedures for each stage of the application process.

[2022 Conservatoires Admissions Guide](#) – describes the procedures used in processing applications for courses included in the scheme and contains additional information relevant to those procedures.

[Link product system guides/technical manuals](#) – details on the technical specifications of link products.

Introduction

Applicants are provided with confirmation decisions during the Confirmation & Clearing period. There are situations, where applicants are in Conditional Firm/ Insurance state and have not yet had their offer(s) confirmed due to a delay from providers.

Currently there is no place for the providers or applicants to view that there is a delay in confirmation and the reason for that delay. Therefore, Link products will be enhanced to allow providers to share the reason(s) why a choice has not yet been confirmed.

The solution is to introduce a new decision 'CP' (Confirmation Pending) in Link Products to inform applicants that there has been a delay in providing the confirmation decisions and the reason for that delay.

Providers can make use of the CP decision only during the Embargo period.

The applicant user interface will be amended, so that applicants will get to know the reason for confirmation delay.

This new confirmation pending decision is valid only for the UG (Undergraduate) scheme.

Please note: Reference data for use in the reason field will follow in a future iteration of this technical briefing document.

Solution Approach

A new transaction 'confirmation Pending' decision (CP) will be introduced for the providers in link products (XML-Link, Web-Link and ODBC-Link).

Confirmation Pending decision will accept a valid reason for the delay.

Technical Implementation

- New transaction type will be added to the confirmation decisions in link products (XML-Link, Web-Link and ODBC-Link), which will be available for applicants in CF/CI state.
- Reason for the delay will be considered a mandatory field for this transaction.
- New report will be introduced in Weblink to capture applicants choice state in Confirmation Pending.
- Reference data for use in the reason field will follow in a future iteration of this technical briefing document.
- Link product manuals will be updated to reflect the new view/transactions details when the change goes live.

System Changes

XML-Link

- A new XML-Link method 'setConfirmationPendingTransUcas' will be added to the XML-Link webservice.
- This XML method accepts reason as a mandatory filed.
- This will be applicable to applicants in CF/CI states and will be valid only during the Embargo period.
- This method will take the following input fields

FIELD_NAME	DATATYPE	SIZE/FORMAT
institutionCode	string	4
userId	string	10
password	string	20
applicationNumber	string	9
personalId	string	10
applicationSchemeCode	string	4
choiceNumber	int	1
decisionCode	string	3
offerText	string	2000

- The output will be the xml response to display if the transaction is a success or a failure.
- The updated CP decisions will be available in the method getUCASApplicantChoices with 'decision' field along with the reason in 'conditions' field.
- The valid reasons for the confirmation pending decisions will be made available in the XML-Link manual.

ODBC-Link

- A new transaction type for confirmation pending will be added in ODBC which can be used while giving decisions to applicants in CF/CI state during Embargo period.
- This transaction type accepts reason as a mandatory field.
- When the transaction is successful, the decision will be updated from C to P and the same will be available in the view ivStarC 'decision' field.
- ivStarC view will be updated to include the new decision CP.
- The ODBC-Link manual will be updated with the valid reason details.

Web-Link

- A new transaction "RD Confirmation Pending" will be available during the Embargo period for applicants in CF/CI state.
- This transaction will accept reason for the delay which will be available in Weblink as a dropdown list. It will be a mandatory field.
- A new report under 'Management Information' section will be added which will display the details of applicants with confirmation pending decisions along with the reasons.

Deployment Timelines

HEP 1	HEP 2	Production
TBC	TBC	TBC