



Department
for Education

Changes to the way the Department for Education (DfE) will operate from 1 April 2022 onwards

Under the Future DfE programme the department will be making changes from 1 April 2022 onwards.

Permanent Secretary, Susan Acland-Hood, said: “We are serious about our purpose – to help children and learners up and down the country to realise their potential. To make sure the department is best organised to deliver on this we are making some changes.

“We are reorganising to be a department that thinks, acts and partners much better locally, not least by being aligned to the 9 regions used elsewhere in government. They also mean we will be organised in a way that is clear and makes sense to the stakeholders we work with and will help us deliver the department’s priorities on Skills, Schools and Families. To achieve this, stakeholder views have informed our work.

“The creation of a group that focusses on skills responds to the recommendations in the Arm’s Length Body Review of the ESFA by consolidating all post-16 policy and delivery within one group to enable a high quality, outcomes-focused post-16 system that gives learners the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their working lives and meet the needs of the economy. This will also allow the ESFA to continue to focus on making sure that public funds are properly spent, and that value for money for the taxpayer is achieved.”

Work on the re-organisation has taken place with staff, partners and alongside the [Arm’s Length Body review of the Education and Skills Funding Agency \(ESFA\)](#), an Executive Agency of the department, led by Sir David Bell KCB DL.

In line with the [DfE’s response to the review recommendations, the new Education and Skills Funding Agency](#) will focus on high-quality funding delivery. The ESFA will continue to focus on making sure that public funds are properly spent and that value for money for the taxpayer is achieved, while helping to inform policy and delivery activity and ensuring the financial health and sustainability of providers.

Other changes will include the creation of a new Regions Group, aligned to the 9 regions used across the rest of government, planned for summer 2022:

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- North East
- North West
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- West Midlands
- East Midlands
- East of England
- South East
- South West
- London

They will provide integrated delivery for schools and local authorities, including children's social care and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

A new strategic centre will create better oversight, drawing together DfE's work and setting direction, working alongside operations and infrastructure, which retains its focus on running the DfE, capital funding and sustainability.

There will also be dedicated Groups focussed on the following areas:

- **families**, which includes children's social care, safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Early Years, focussed on ensuring that no matter where they live, children receive the same high quality of care and support
- **schools**, dedicated to the Secretary of State's mission that through schools every child will get a great education and the right support
- **skills**, in line with the Education and Skills Funding Agency review recommendations, will consolidate all post-16 policy, delivery and regional work in one place to enable a high quality, outcomes-focused post-16 system that gives learners the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their working lives and meet the needs of the economy

There are no changes to our other Executive Agencies, the Standards and Testing Agency and the Teaching Regulation Agency.