



Welcome

Update is our weekly round-up of business-critical and useful information to Skills Funding Agency providers. If you have any feedback, please email the [Update mailbox](#).

Please forward and share Update with your colleagues, who might also like to register for [web alerts](#). This will notify them by email when we add new issues of Update or important announcements to the Agency's [website](#). You can also connect with the Agency on [Twitter](#).

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1. Register of Training Organisations

Action

We have published the latest version of the Register of Training Organisations on the [Register section](#) of our website.

The Register will re-open for applications on **Friday, 21 February at 5.00pm** and close on Friday, 28 March at 5.00pm.

If you failed the process this time around you must reapply when the Register opens. Organisations that appear on the January Register do not need to reapply. Subcontractors who have failed the process for the second consecutive time are in breach of the funding rules. We will be writing to their lead providers shortly asking that contracts with these organisations are terminated.

For further information, please refer to the [Register section](#) of our website.

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2. Declaration of Subcontractors Form 2013/14: Second Planned Collection

Action

This week your Central Delivery Service contact will send you an email to request an updated Declaration of Subcontractors Form.

Thank you if you have already sent your form to us.

Organisations that only have an Employer Outcome Pilot (EOP) budget are not required to send us a declaration form.

Providers who have both funding allocations and EOP should not declare any EOP subcontracting arrangements on their form.

If you have not yet returned your form, please do so now. Nil returns are required if relevant. Forms ready for successful validation are required by **Wednesday, 12 March**.

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3. Skills Funding Statement 2013 to 2016

Information

Skills and Enterprise Minister Matthew Hancock MP has published the **Skills Funding Statement 2013 to 2016** which sets out the ongoing reforms government is implementing to the skills system so that it is more learner-focused and employer-led. The Agency is very much at the heart of these reforms and they will inform the future direction of what we do over the next two years.

To find out more about the **Skills Funding Statement 2013 to 2016** please refer to the **BIS website**.

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4. Advanced and Higher Apprenticeships for Learners Aged 24+

Information

Regulations that will remove Apprenticeships from the 24+ Advanced Learning Loans scheme will be laid in Parliament shortly and are set to come in to force on 7 March 2014. When the regulations come in to force, Apprentices who have taken out a 24+ Advanced Learning Loan will not have to pay it back and the Student Loans Company will contact them to make them aware of the changes. Until the regulations come into force it will still be possible for Apprentices to apply for a loan.

Next week, we will publish information including operational guidance for providers, a revised policy overview document and an Addendum to the Funding Rules 2013/14 on the **24+ Advanced Learning Loans section** of our website.

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5. The Hub: Contracts and Finances Roll-Out

Information

From **Monday, 3 March**, we will enable online access to your contract and finance information.

This capability will allow the delivery of the following business processes starting from the 2014/15 contracting cycle (2013/14 processes will remain):

- Agency issuing Funding Statements
- Agency issuing Contract Documentation
- Colleges and training organisations returning Subcontractor Declaration Forms
- Colleges and training organisations returning Funding Claims
- Agency issuing Reconciliation Statements

A further training opportunity is available on Wednesday, 26 February – to book [follow this link](#).

For further information on accessing contracts and finances, please refer to [The Hub section](#) of our website

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6. European Social Fund: Skills Support Programme

Information

We have issued invitations to tender for the Skills Support Fund to organisations that appear on the Register of Training Organisations and have expressed an interest in delivering this type of provision.

They cover the following requirements:

- Skills Support for Work Programme participants in employment
- Maths and English provision for the employed

- Flexible Fund for unemployed individuals
- Skills Fund for Hinkley

The closing date for bids is **Monday, 24 February** [Thursday, 27 February for the Skills Fund for Hinkley].

Information and documents in support of the tender are available to eligible providers on the [**Bravo Solution website**](#).

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7. FE Choices: Employer Satisfaction Survey 2014

Information

This year's Employer Satisfaction Survey 2014 starts on **Monday, 7 April**.

There are a number of actions that colleges and training organisations need to take in **February and March** in preparation for the survey.

This week we have written to all in-scope colleges and training organisations about the actions required.

For further information, please refer to the [**Employer Satisfaction**](#) section of our website.

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8. National Apprenticeship Week 2014: Online Events Calendar

Information

National Apprenticeship Week 2014 will take place from 3 – 7 March. With less than 4 weeks to go time is running out to add your event to the [**online events calendar**](#) using the [**online form**](#).

If you are planning to recruit apprentices from now until 31 December then please let us know using our new [pledgeometer](#).

For more information, please refer to the [Apprenticeship website](#).

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9. WorldSkills UK: Put Your Skills to the Test

Information

Theo Paphitis, the leading entrepreneur and patron of [WorldSkills UK – The Skills Show](#), is calling on the UK's most talented to put their skills to the test and enter the WorldSkills UK National Competitions.

Apprentices and learners can register to enter [WorldSkills UK Competitions](#), which are managed by the Skills Funding Agency from 10 February until 21 March.

For more information visit www.worldskillsuk.org and watch the [WorldSkills UK industry sector films](#) on Youtube.

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Making skills work for England.

A partner organisation of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

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