



Welcome

Update is our weekly round-up of business-critical or useful information to Skills Funding Agency colleges and training organisations.

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 to the Agency's [website](#); you can also connect with us on [Twitter](#).

If you have any feedback, please email [Update](#). Please note that over the Christmas period the Skills Funding Agency's offices will close on Thursday, 25 December and reopen on Monday, 5 January.

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1. Individualised Learner Record R05 2014 to 2015: Closes Wednesday, 7 January 2015

Action

The Individualised Learner Record (ILR) R05 collection for the funding year 2014 to 2015 is open and will close at 6.00pm on **Wednesday, 7 January 2015**.

Colleges and training organisations due to make a return for R05 must submit data to **the Hub**.

(NOTE: The Service Desk will close at 1.00pm on Wednesday, 24 December and will reopen at 8.30am on Monday, 5 January 2015.)

For further information, please refer to the **Payments and Data** section of our website on **GOV.UK**.

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2. Jobcentre Plus Referrals: Traineeships

Action

Across England, Jobcentre Plus has introduced measures to increase the number of claimants referred to traineeship opportunities.

As well as referring young people to existing traineeships opportunities, Jobcentre Plus will support the growth of traineeships by referring suitable eligible claimants to an assessment with colleges and training organisations (providers) that need to establish local demand before committing to deliver the programme.

Providers interested in receiving these referrals should contact their local Jobcentre Plus to advise that they intend to deliver traineeships and that they are prepared to assess prospective trainees for potential traineeship opportunities. Local work coaches will then agree a process with providers for doing this.

For further information, please contact your local Jobcentre Plus.

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3. Funding Allocations 2015 to 2016

Information

The Skills Funding letter will set out the budget and priorities for the funding year 2015 to 2016. In advance of its publication, we can confirm that we will issue funding allocations for the funding year 2015 to 2016 in March 2015.

We will communicate the principles on which we will base these allocations in January 2015.

If you have any queries, please contact your Central Delivery Service adviser.

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4. Final Delivered and Funded Publication 2013 to 2014

Information

Following the submission of R14 Individualised Learner Record data and final funding claims, we will shortly publish the value of delivery and the value of funding paid to colleges, training organisations and employers in the funding year 2013 to 2014. This will be available on the [Funding Allocations and Performance Management](#) section of our website on [GOV.UK](#).

We are publishing this information in accordance with our commitment to open data and transparency about the use of funding.

If you have any queries, please contact your Central Delivery Service adviser.

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5. Individualised Learner Record 2015 to 2016: Specification Development

Information

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Agency jointly chair the Vocational Education Data Board. The Board has responsibility for further education data including the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) collection.

The Agency's sector advisory groups have been an essential part of the ILR change process for the funding year 2015 to 2016. Examples of expected changes include data for Higher Education funding, for English and maths GCSEs for 16- to 18-year-olds, recording of two-year A-levels and the new European Social Fund programme.

The Board will review and approve the changes before we publish the ILR specification in January 2015.

Further information is available on [feconnect](#) and in the monthly [Inform](#) newsletter.

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6. London European Social Fund Apprenticeship Grant for Employers for 16- to 24-year-olds

Information

Shortly, we will issue funding statements to confirm London European Social Fund (ESF) Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE) Facilities. These confirm the value of funding available to each college and training organisation to provide London ESF AGE to employers. The funding statements will include information about the use of these Facilities, as well as the process to request changes.

Further guidance for colleges, training organisations and employers is available on the [AGE 16- to 24-year-olds](#) section of our website on [GOV.UK](#).

If you have any queries, please contact your Central Delivery Service adviser.

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7. Apprenticeship Grant for Employers 16 to 24: Updated Factsheets and 2015 to 2016 Facilities

Information

Updated Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE) factsheets for employers, colleges and training organisations (providers) are available on the [AGE 16- to 24-year-olds](#) section of our website on [GOV.UK](#). Please use these for apprentices starting on approved apprenticeship frameworks from 1 January 2015.

The new eligibility rules apply for starts from January 2015 and focus on small businesses (those with fewer than 50 employees). Employers/businesses can claim a maximum of five grants, each with a value of £1,500. All other criteria for the grant remain the same as before.

We will communicate Facilities for AGE for the financial year 2015 to 2016 to providers early in the New Year.

If you have any queries, please contact your Central Delivery Service adviser.

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8. Apprenticeships Website: Move to GOV.UK

Information

From Wednesday, 17 December, apprenticeships information will be available on the [Apprenticeship](#) section of our website on [GOV.UK](#).

The new layout differs from the former apprenticeships website. If you cannot find information by following the links on GOV.UK, please use [Google](#) to search for the most up-to-date content. You can access the old apprenticeships website through the [National Archive Office](#) website.

For further information or related queries, please email webrequests@sfa.bis.gov.uk.

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9. Employability and Study Skills Qualifications at Level 2 and Above: Review

Information

We have completed our [review of qualifications](#) at Level 2 or above approved for public funding and with content relating to employability or study skills.

Qualifications included in the review had a Last Date for New Starts (LDNS) set to 28 February 2015. Where such qualifications were available in the funding year 2013 to 2014 but attracted no publicly funded adult enrolments outside of an apprenticeship, their LDNS will remain 28 February 2015.

All other qualifications included in the review will have their LDNS changed to 31 July 2015. We will reflect this in the next edition of the Simplified Funding Rates Catalogue in early January and the subsequent update to the Hub.

For further information, please email qualifications@sfa.bis.gov.uk.

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10. Register of Training Organisations: Open

Information

The Register of Training Organisations (the Register) is open and will close on **Friday, 23 January 2015** at 5.00pm.

Please note this opening is not a refresh and organisations currently listed on the Register do not need to take any action.

For further information, please refer to the [Register of Training Organisations](#) section of our website on [GOV.UK](#) or email registerhelp@sfa.bis.gov.uk.

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Making skills work for England.

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