



Skills Funding
Agency

Update

Issue 303
6 April 2016

Welcome

In this issue of Update, our weekly round-up of business-critical and useful information to Skills Funding (SFA) colleges, other training organisations and direct grant employers:

1. **Subcontracting Data: Second Collection**
2. **Cost Model: Updated**
3. **Recruit an Apprentice/Trainee: Launch Rescheduled**
4. **New Apprenticeship Standards: Survey**

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1. Subcontracting Data: Second Collection

Action

Organisations with a direct SFA funding agreement that are required to declare their subcontracting arrangements will have received an email recently from their Central Delivery Service adviser. The email provides instructions on how to submit an updated subcontractor declaration form.

All in-scope funding agreement-holders **must complete** a form, even if it is a nil return. The deadline for returning forms is **Friday, 15 April**; as detailed in the Funding Rules, we will suspend the May payment to any college or other training organisation that misses the deadline.

As soon as we receive a valid form, we will lift the suspension and release the payment at the next payment run. We will not consider any extensions to the deadline.

For further details, please refer to paragraph 52 of the [Funding Rules](#).

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2. Cost Model: Updated

Information

We have published an updated [Cost Model](#) that provides breakdowns of typical capital costs for new build and refurbishment in the further education sector.

The updated Cost Model is aimed primarily at colleges and other training organisations involved in designing and developing capital projects. It has been prepared in collaboration with property consultants AECOM and AA Projects, working on behalf of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Association of Colleges' forum.

For further information or related queries, please email [Property Services](#).

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3. 'Recruit an Apprentice/Trainee': Launch Rescheduled

Information

We have rescheduled the launch of the 'recruit an apprentice/trainee' service to the early summer to carry out more development work and user testing.

We will host the new service on GOV.UK; it will replace [Apprenticeship vacancies \(Av\)](#) and offer the following benefits:

1. A self-serve facility for colleges and other training organisations to advertise vacancies more quickly.
2. Built-in validations for wages/working hours on the vacancy posting form.
3. Simpler vacancy management tools, with enhanced quality assurance features
4. Clearer and timely feedback from our advisers to providers on their vacancies.

We will publish details about how to use the new service on GOV.UK later this spring.

For more information, please email [Find an Apprenticeship](#).

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4. New Apprenticeship Standards: Survey

Information

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has launched the latest in a series of surveys to seek your views on apprenticeship proposals submitted by employers:

- [brand new apprenticeship proposals](#)
- [draft apprenticeship standards](#)
- [draft assessment plans](#)


The surveys close on **Sunday, 17 April**; your feedback will help ensure that new apprenticeships are viable and widely supported.

BIS will upload approved standards and assessment plans to the [Apprenticeship Standards](#) page of GOV.UK.

For further information, or to receive regular updates on the latest bids, please email [Apprenticeship Trailblazers](#).

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