

**INFORMATION RELEASED UNDER THE
 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

Information released title	Post 16 education for students with complex needs
Original request	<p>I am conducting research into the potential market for post 16 education for students with complex needs. Specifically young people with Autism and learning difficulties, who present challenging behaviour.</p> <p>a. Would you please send me any overall market information about the state of the post 16 education and vocational market.</p> <p>b. Also I would like to know :</p> <p>1. How many places in FE colleges are there currently, suitable for a resident with the complexity of conditions mentioned above?</p> <p>2. What is the spread of places across the different types of FE provision (e.g. percentage in mainstream college)</p> <p>3. How many residents, who meet the above description, do you have placed in an independent specialist college?</p> <p>4. What do you know about the demand for places for a person with the needs listed, going forward and what plans do you have to meet that demand?</p> <p>5. What is the average weekly fee for F.E provision for those with the needs mentioned above? What is the range (lowest price paid and highest)?</p> <p>6. What specific programmes or projects could my employer become involved in, that will help develop FE provision for young people with severe disabilities to get them independent, trained to work and engaged with life?</p>
Date of release	05/01/2015
Requester type	Specialist provider of services

Information released:

(a) Would you please send me any overall market information about the state of the post 16 education and vocational market.

McCoshan, A. (2013) *OECD Skills beyond School: Background Report*. UK Commission for Employment and Skills, Wath-upon-Deerne. Available:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/305327/briefing-paper-oecd-report-england_skills_beyond-schools.pdf.

This report looks at the current training system and policies in England to set the background for the Skills Beyond School project. The project is being undertaken by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and is looking at post-secondary vocational education and training across a wide range of countries.

UKCES (2014) *Employer Perspectives Survey 2014: UK Results*. UKCES, Wath-upon-Deerne. Available:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-perspectives-survey-2014>.

Our survey of 18,000 employers provides a UK-wide picture of how employers are meeting their skills and recruitment needs, looking both at their engagement with skills and employment services and their broader approaches to people development. You may be particularly interested in Chapters 4 and 5 of the [evidence report](#), which reports on employer perspectives on people development and apprenticeships.

Skills Funding Agency and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (2014) *Further Education and Skills: Statistical First Release*. SFA and BIS, London. Available:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-held>.

This dataset provides information on adult (aged 19 and over) government-funded further education (excluding schools and higher education) and all age (16 and over) apprenticeships in England, between 2008 to 2009 and 2012 to 2013. It includes provisional data for the full 2013 to 2014 academic year, including a breakdown for Traineeships for the first time.

Department for Education (2014) *Participation in education, training and employment, age 16 to 18*. DfE, London. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/participation-in-education-training-and-employment-age-16-to-18>.

This statistical first release (SFR) draws together information from the different post-16 learning options (school, FE colleges, work-based learning, higher education, etc) to give a coherent and comprehensive picture of the participation of 16- to 18-year-olds.

Department for Education (2014) *Education and Training Statistics for the UK*. DfE, London. Available:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/education-and-training-statistics-for-the-uk-2014>.

This release provides statistics relating to education and training in the UK and includes chapters relating to post-compulsory education & training and qualifications. Information includes participation of learners in further education by country of study, participation in job-related training and the highest level of qualification held by adults in the population (UK).

Wolf, A. (2011) *Review of Vocational Education – The Wolf Report*. Department for Education, London. Available:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/180504/DFE-00031-2011.pdf.

OECD (2014) *Education at a Glance*. OECD, Paris.

OECD's *Education at a Glance*, published annually, is viewed as an authoritative source for accurate and relevant information on the state of education around the world.

- [Read the 2014 edition of the publication;](#)
- [Read the 2014 Education at a Glance United Kingdom Country Note.](#)

Please note that the OECD does not use the term 'post-16 education', but rather 'post-secondary'. Whilst there is not direct read-across between these terms, the post-secondary OECD data may be helpful in your research.

Questions (b) 1-6

The UK Commission produces robust business intelligence to ensure that skills development supports choice, competitiveness and growth for local and industrial strategies. For example, our current business plan sets out our commitment to publish the UK Commission Employer Perspectives Survey (2014) and Employer Skills Survey (2013). However, we have not undertaken any research into the areas described in your request. I can confirm therefore, that the UK Commission holds no information in relation to questions 1-6.

However, under our duty to provide advice and assistance, I am pleased to signpost you towards some organisations and sources that may be of value:

- The [Skills Funding Agency](#) fund skills training for FE in England and may be able to advise on some of the data required. You may also wish to consult their [Further Education Data Library: Equality and Diversity](#).

Email: info@sfa.bis.gov.uk or telephone: 0345 377 5000.

- [Association of Colleges](#) represents and promotes the interests of more than 320 further education, sixth form, tertiary and specialist colleges across the UK.

Email: enquiries@aoc.co.uk or telephone: 020 7034 9900.

- [Disability Rights UK](#) strengthens the voice of disabled people. Their policy work on [education, skills and employment](#) seeks to ensure that young disabled people can achieve potential and aspirations through education, skills and training. More information on the services offered by Disability Rights UK is available on their [How We Can Help pages](#).

Email: enquiries@disabilityrightsuk.org or telephone: 020 7250 8181.

- [Business Disability Forum](#) is a not-for-profit member organisation that makes it easier and more rewarding to do business with and employ disabled people.

Email: enquiries@businessdisabilityforum.org.uk or telephone: 020 7403 3020.

- The Department for Education have a '[Supported Internships](#)' programme which may also be of interest.