



Skills Funding
Agency

Update

Issue 316
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Welcome

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

1. **Apprenticeship Funding for New Starts: 2016 to 2017 Contracts**
2. **Skills Funding Service: 2016 to 2017**
3. **Reforms: Withdrawal of Frameworks Consultation**
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6. **New Apprenticeship Standards: Survey**

Please share Update with your colleagues, who might like to register for [web alerts](#). This will notify them by email when we publish new editions of [Update](#) on [GOV.UK](#). If you have any feedback, please email [Update](#).

1. Apprenticeship Funding for New Starts: 2016 to 2017

Contracts

Information

We will shortly be issuing contracts for the 2016 to 2017 funding year. These do not include funding for new apprenticeship starts after April 2017, to align with the introduction of the apprenticeship levy.

We will continue to fund all existing starts as at 31 March 2017, and we will publish further details of the procurement for apprenticeship delivery from April 2017 in due course.

For further information about the apprenticeship levy, please refer to the latest [guidance](#) on GOV.UK.

For further information about your 2016 to 2017 contract, please contact your Central Delivery Service adviser.

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2. Skills Funding Service: 2016 to 2017

Information

The Skills Funding Service (SFS) has been available for two months and used successfully to issue and digitally sign over 600 contracts.

We will shortly be issuing the following 2016 to 2017 contracts on SFS:

- Adult Education Budget
- 16 to 18 apprenticeships/traineeships
- 19+ apprenticeships

If they have not already done so, your staff need to register and set up roles to use the service and sign contracts online. More information about the user roles you need and how to apply for them is available on [feconnect](#).

For further information, please email the SFA's [Service Desk](#).

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3. Apprenticeship Reforms: Withdrawal of Frameworks Consultation

Information

As part of our apprenticeship reforms work, we have launched a [consultation](#) on the withdrawal of the third batch of apprenticeship frameworks.

In March, we withdrew the [first](#) batch of apprenticeship frameworks as there were no starts, and in May, following consultation with issuing authorities, we withdrew the [second](#) batch. The consultation will run from Wednesday, 6 July to Wednesday, 3 August.

We will review the feedback and announce the final list for withdrawal in September. The proposed date for withdrawing these frameworks for new starts is 1 April 2017.

For further information, please refer to the [Apprenticeship Changes](#) page on GOV.UK or email the SFA's [Service Desk](#).

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4. Assurance Reviews: Common Findings

Information

We have published a summary of [Common Findings from Assurance Work](#) from our assurance work on the Adult Skills Budget and 16 to 18 apprenticeships funding in 2015 to 2016.

Please review these findings as they may help you to avoid non-compliance with our [Funding Rules](#).

For further information, please email the [Provider Risk and Assurance](#) team.

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5. Education and Training Foundation: Staff Individualised Record System Information

The Education and Training Foundation has launched a new [staff individualised record](#) (SIR) system, which collects data about the FE and skills workforce each year.

The SIR will help you to collect, analyse and benchmark vital management data about your workforce and benchmark your organisation against others.

The window for data submission for the academic year 2015 to 2016 will close on 31 August. Please login or register to preview the system.

For further information, please email [SIR Data Collection](#).

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6. New Apprenticeship Standards: Survey Information

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has launched the latest in a series of short surveys to seek your views on new apprenticeships and related assessment plans submitted by our Trailblazer employer groups:

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


Your feedback will help ensure that new apprenticeships are viable and widely supported by business.

The surveys close on **Friday 15 July**; 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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