



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:

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2. **Funding Agreements 2016 to 2017**
3. **FE Choices Employer Satisfaction Survey 2015 to 2016**
4. **Report of the Independent Panel on Technical Education and Post-16 Skills Plan Published**
5. **Finance Record Template 2015 to 2016**
6. **Community Learning Mental Health Research Project**
7. **Updated English and maths Legal Entitlements List**
8. **Updated Levels 2 and 3 Legal Entitlements List**

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. Skills Funding Service: 2016 to 2017 Contracts

Information

Last week, we issued the contracts for the 2016 to 2017 funding year for the following programmes using the Skills Funding Service (SFS):

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

So far, over 300 colleges and other training organisations have digitally signed and approved these. You need to sign your contract(s) on SFS by the following deadlines:

- **4.00pm on Wednesday, 3 August** – pay on profile providers
- **4.00pm on Monday, 5 September** – pay on actuals providers

Your staff need to register to use the service and sign contracts online. Further information about user roles and how to apply for them is available on [**feconnect**](#)

For further information, please email the [**Service Desk**](#).

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2. Funding Agreement 2016 to 2017

Information

We have published [**updated funding agreements**](#) for the 2016 to 2017 funding year.

The funding agreements are for colleges, other training organisations, local authorities and employers that receive funding from the Skills Funding Agency to provide education and skills training. The funding allocations are subject to the conditions set out in the funding agreements.

For further information about your 2016 to 2017 contract, please contact your Business Operations Provider Manager.

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3. FE Choices Employer Satisfaction Survey 2015 to 2016

Information

The Employer Satisfaction Survey 2015 to 2016 closes on **Friday, 22 July**.

The paper and online phases of the 2015 to 2016 survey closed on 24 June. Colleges and training organisations can now access the latest interim reports on the [Provider Extranet](#). The telephone survey, which is the final stage of the SFA-led phase, will also close on **Friday, 22 July**.

For further information or guidance, please email the [Service Desk](#).

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4. Report of the Independent Panel on Technical Education and Post-16 Skills Plan Published

Information

The government has published a [Report of the Independent Panel on Technical Education](#). It has also published its [Post-16 Skills Plan](#), which responds to the panel's recommendations and sets out the overarching framework for the skills system.

These documents signal the most radical reforms to post-16 education since the introduction of A-levels. The Post-16 Skills Plan is a fundamentally simplified system, presenting learners with the clear choice of a high quality technical option at 16, alongside the academic option.

Building on the apprenticeships reform, the technical option will give learners a clear line of sight from education into skilled employment.

Further details on how the government will implement the reforms will be provided in the autumn.

For further information, please email the [Qualifications](#) team.

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5. Finance Record Template 2015 to 2016

Information

Together with the Education Funding Agency, we have published an updated version of the [finance record template](#) for the academic year 2015 to 2016.

Colleges must submit their completed finance record to the SFA by 31 December 2016, using the [EFA information exchange](#).

You must submit the finance record template to the respective funding body (SFA or EFA), as part of your annual reports and financial statements. The [Accounts Direction for 2015 to 2016 Financial Statements](#) document details this.

We will issue further guidance on how to submit college accounts closer to the deadline.

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

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6. Community Learning Mental Health Research Project

Information

We have extended the Community Learning Mental Health Research project. It will run from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017 and retain the overarching [2015 to 2016 objectives](#).

We recently wrote to 54 colleges and other training organisations to confirm continued funding for adult education courses to help adults recover from mild to moderate mental health.

Please refer to the map on the [MHFE](#) website to review the research sites and their progress.

For further information about the Community Learning Mental Health Research project, please contact your Business Operations Provider Manager.

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7. Updated English and maths Legal Entitlements List Information

We have updated the 2016 to 2017 English and maths legal entitlements list to include legacy GCSEs and IGCSEs (counting towards the English Baccalaureate) in English and maths. This follows the publication of [**How the SFA and EFA will fund legacy GCSEs and IGCSEs in English, English language and mathematics in 2016 to 2017.**](#)

We have only done this where the operational and certification end dates of these qualifications are updated on Ofqual's [**Register of Regulated Qualifications.**](#)

Later this month, we will update the Hub to include these qualifications.

For further information, please email the [**Service Desk.**](#)

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8. Updated Levels 2 and 3 Legal Entitlements List

Information

We have updated the [2016 to 2017 Levels 2 and 3 Legal Entitlements](#) list to include the following:

- 2018 Performance Table qualifications
- Access to HE
- GCSEs
- A and AS-levels


This spreadsheet lists the qualifications that you can deliver as part of the Levels 2 and 3 legal entitlements for learners aged 19 to 23.

Later this month, we will update the Hub to include these qualifications.

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

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