



## 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 and Traineeship Growth Exercise: 2016 to 2017**
2. **The Register of Training Organisations: Open**
3. **Advanced Learner Loans: 2016 to 2017 Applications**
4. **'Get In Go Far': Government Campaign**
5. **Learning Aim Search Functionality: Updates**
6. **Area Review: VAT Reclaim**
7. **FE Choices Learner Satisfaction Survey**
8. **New Portal: Apprenticeship Reforms**
9. **EU Referendum: Register to Vote**

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](#).

**NOTE:** Our [Business Cycle](#) sets out the key milestones from April 2015 to March 2016 and will help you plan ahead.

## 1. Apprenticeship and Traineeship Growth Exercise: 2016 to 2017

### Information

You can now submit requests for increases to your 2016 to 2017 funding year allocation for 16 to 18 apprenticeships, 19+ apprenticeships, 16-18 traineeships and 19 to 24 traineeships (for periods 1 to 12)

We will only consider growth requests for 16 to 18 and 19+ for the following apprenticeships:

- higher and /or degree level
- food, farming and agritech
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based
- other standards (not frameworks)

Please complete and submit your growth request **forms** to **Provider Performance Management** by **5.00pm** on **Friday 20 May**.

For further information or related queries, please contact your Central Delivery Service adviser.

[Back to top](#)

## 2. The Register of Training Organisations: Open

### Information

The Register of Training Organisations (the Register) is now open for applications and will close at **5.00pm** on **Tuesday, 31 May**.

This opening is for new applications and for those organisations that are required to enter the Register, as detailed in our **Funding Rules 2015 to 2016** (paragraphs 4 and 24).

For further information, please refer to the [Register](#) page of GOV.UK or email [Register Help](#).

[Back to top](#)

### 3. **Advanced Learner Loans: 2016 to 2017 Applications**

#### **Information**

The 2016 to 2017 Advanced Learner Loans [online application](#), for courses starting from 1 August 2016, will be available to eligible learners from **Monday, 16 May**.

Learners can only apply to your college or training organisation if you returned your 2016 to 2017 signed funding agreement to us by the April deadline.

We will include any agreements received after this deadline in the next monthly update to the Student Loans Company.

For further information, please email [Advanced Learner Loans](#).

[Back to top](#)

### 4. **‘Get In Go Far’: Government Campaign**

#### **Information**

The ‘Get In Go Far’ campaign launches on **Monday, 16 May**. It aims to inspire young people to consider apprenticeships as a valid and credible route to a rewarding career. It will inform young people, parents, teachers and employers about the range of opportunities available with apprenticeships.

Advertising will direct young people online, where they will be able to see a clear pathway to a career through opportunities with apprenticeships and traineeships.

To support the campaign, please make sure that all your apprenticeship vacancies and traineeship opportunities are advertised on [Find an apprenticeship](#) and [Find a traineeship](#).

For further information, please email the [Consumer Services Partnership](#) team.

[Back to top](#)

## 5. Learning Aim Search Functionality: Updates

### Information

We have added a new category to the learning aim search on [the Hub](#). This is to identify the qualifications that are part of the local flexibility in the Adult Education Budget for the academic year 2016 to 2017.

You can find further [guidance](#) about categories and definitions using the links on the right-hand side of the website.

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

[Back to top](#)

## 6. Area Review: VAT Reclaim

### Information

The government will make funding available from the restructuring facility to reimburse those colleges that face a VAT charge due to a change of ownership of a premise, which was previously zero-rated.

This will be available where the premise will continue to be used for educational purposes following a merger or a successful application to become an academy, following the area review process.

Area Review [guidance](#) and becoming an academy [guidance](#) will be updated shortly. This will give further details on the terms and conditions and how further education colleges and sixth form colleges can reclaim VAT.

Further information will be available once the guidance is updated. For any VAT queries, please contact [HM Revenues and Customs](#).

[Back to top](#)

## 7. FE Choices Learner Satisfaction Survey

### Information

The 2015 to 2016 learner satisfaction survey closed on 1 April 2016. Colleges and other training organisations can now access their end-of-survey interim reports on the [Provider Extranet](#). We will publish the final results later this year.

The [survey guidance](#) outlines that we had updated the questions following a consultation with stakeholders, including learners and staff in colleges and training organisations.

We reduced the number of questions to eight and replaced the overall score out of 10 with the percentage score from the 'recommend' question.

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

[Back to top](#)

## 8. New Portal: Apprenticeship Reforms

### Information

The [Future Apprenticeships portal](#) supports the professional development of staff in colleges and other training organisations involved in increasing apprenticeships.

It includes information on the Future Apprenticeships programme and contains links to wider information on the apprenticeship reforms, details about professional development opportunities and a range of resources.

A **toolkit** is also available which shares transition models and effective practice from colleges and other training organisations that have adopted the new standards.

For further information, please email the **Education Training Foundation**.

[Back to top](#)

## **9. EU Referendum: Register to Vote**

### **Information**


The EU Referendum takes place on 23 June and learners will need to register to vote if they wish to take part.

The Electoral Commission has published **resources**, which may help you to promote the message to your learners.

Learners will need to **register** to vote by 7 June and will need their national insurance number. If they cannot find it, please refer to the **Find a Lost National Insurance Number** page on GOV.UK.

[Back to top](#)



Follow us on twitter 

An executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Skills Funding Agency complies with the **Data Protection Act 1998** and information on our **privacy policy** is available on our website on **GOV.UK**.



Corporate member of  
Plain English Campaign  
Committed to clearer communication

**511**