



Skills Funding
Agency

Update

Issue 304
13 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. **Financial Planning Handbook 2015 to 2016**
3. **Geographic Delivery Data 2014 to 2015**
4. **Intervention Work: Letter to Sector**
5. **FE Maintenance Loans: Consultation**
6. **Future Apprenticeships: Impact 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. 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 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 email a completed** a form to **their CDS adviser**, even if it is a nil return, by **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](#).

[Back to top](#)

2. Financial Planning Handbook 2015 to 2016

Action

We have published the [Financial Planning Handbook 2015 to 2016](#). This gives guidance for further education colleges on financial planning information that the SFA and the Education Funding Agency (EFA) require.

It will be of interest to all colleges that are required to provide two-year financial plans to the SFA or EFA.

The handbook sets out the framework for completing financial plans for the period 2016 to 2018. Colleges should submit their completed financial plans to the respective funding body by **31 July 2016**, as detailed in the handbook. We will publish the financial plan template later this month.

For further information or related queries, please email [Provider Financial Management](#).

[Back to top](#)

3. **Geographic Delivery Data 2014 to 2015**

Information

Shortly, we will publish data setting out your proportion of delivery within your home local authority and region. We have based the data on learners' postcodes and it relates to non-apprenticeship Adult Skills Budget (ASB) delivery in the 2014 to 2015 funding year.

We are publishing this data to support you in discussion with local government authorities in future Adult Education Budget (AEB) commissioning discussions. This will help establish a shared understanding of the current pattern of delivery. This will be particularly important if you work in areas that have a skills devolution agreement or a skills incentive pilot. We included the same information (in a map) as part of the funding statements setting out 2016 to 2017 allocations.

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

[Back to top](#)

4. **Intervention Work: Letter to Sector**

Information

On Monday, 11 April, Peter Mucklow, the SFA Director for Intervention, wrote to colleges and other training organisations. The [letter](#) gives an update on intervention work across the SFA and the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

From 1 April, we have extended our joint working by bringing together EFA and SFA staff under six deputy directors. They will have combined responsibilities on risk assessment and intervention across both agencies.

Bringing staff together across EFA and SFA will enable us to work more efficiently to:

- identify institutions at risk through use of analytical tools and local intelligence
- intervene to prevent or remedy significant difficulties in individual institutions
- support the delivery of Area Reviews and support implementation of their agreed recommendations

[Back to top](#)

5. FE Maintenance Loans: Consultation

Information

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is seeking your views on its proposals to introduce maintenance loans for higher-level learners in technical and professional education.

The aim of the consultation is to remove the upfront cost and increase the take-up of technical and professional learning in sectors that are important to the economy.

BIS will use evidence gathered through this consultation to make decisions on:

- whether introducing the loans would increase take-up
- the scope of the loans
- eligibility to receive the loans

You can view a copy of the [consultation document](#) on GOV.UK. The consultation process closes on **16 June**.

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

[Back to top](#)

6. Future Apprenticeships: Impact Survey

Information

If you have accessed support through the [Future Apprenticeship Staff Support Programme](#) in workshops, meetings or webinars, the Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP) would like to hear how the programme has supported you.


Please complete a short [survey](#) by **Monday, 18 April**; it should take no more than five minutes to complete.

The AELP is currently in discussion with the Education and Training Foundation, so your feedback is vital in helping to shape any future support.

Please pass this survey on to all relevant members of staff in your organisation, supply chains and/or network.

[Back to top](#)



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511