



Skills Funding  
Agency

Update

Issue 299  
9 March 2016

## 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. **FE Choices Employer Satisfaction Survey**
2. **New Apprenticeship Standards: Survey**
3. **Updated Guidance on Area Reviews**

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. FE Choices Employer Satisfaction Survey

### Action

The FE Choices Employer Satisfaction survey 'provider-led' phase starts from 29 March to 29 April.

During this phase, colleges and other training organisations can encourage their employers to participate in the survey. We have published [guidance](#) on the key steps you need to take during March to achieve a valid score.

To link the Employer Satisfaction survey with your own survey, you need to log your request on the [Provider Extranet](#) by **Monday, 14 March**.

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

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## 2. New Apprenticeship Standards: Survey

### Information

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has launched a series of new surveys to seek your views on apprenticeship proposals submitted by employers:

- [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.

The surveys close on **Sunday, 13 March**; BIS will upload approved standards and assessment plans to the [Apprenticeship Standards](#) page on GOV.UK.

For further information, or to receive regular updates on the latest bids, please email [Apprenticeship Trailblazers](#).

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### 3. Updated Guidance on Area Reviews

#### Information

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has published [Updated Guidance on Area Reviews](#). This reflects the learning emerging from the reviews as they progress.

BIS announced area reviews of post-16 education and training institutions in July 2015. Each area review aims to establish a set of institutions that offer high-quality education and training based on the needs of learners and employers locally.

For enquiries about the process and implementation of area reviews, please email the [Joint Area Review Delivery Unit](#).



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