



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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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. Funding Statements 2016 to 2017

Information

This week, we will make 2016 to 2017 funding statements available on [the Hub](#). The funding statements set out your allocations for:

- Adult Education Budget (including Community Learning and Discretionary Learner Support)
- Adult apprenticeships
- 16 to 18 apprenticeships and SFA-funded traineeships
- Loans facility
- Loans bursary
- Apprenticeship Grant for Employers

Please read your funding statement in conjunction with the [Skills Funding Letter](#) to the SFA and the document [Adult Education Budget: Changing Context and Arrangements for 2016 to 2017](#).

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

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2. Apprenticeship Levy: How It Will Work

Information

Last week, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) published [guidance](#) about how the apprenticeship levy will work.

The apprenticeship levy will apply to all UK employers in both the private and public sectors that pay annual bills of more than £3 million.

BIS will publish more detail on the recent Budget announcement that employers will receive a 10% top-up to their monthly levy contributions in April 2016.

For further information, please email [Apprenticeships Levy Consultation](#).

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3. Funding Rules 2016 to 2017 Version 2

Information

We have published [Version 2 of the Funding Rules 2016 to 2017](#). We have updated these based on your feedback, which we have used to clarify content.

The documents set out the rules for funding, including the evidence required to support funding for 2016 to 2017. These rules will apply from 1 August 2016.

We will also publish the rules for the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers for 16- to 24-year-olds (AGE) in Addendum 4 of the Funding Rules for 2015 to 2016 Version 2. These rules will apply from 1 April 2016.

For further information, please visit the [Funding Rules](#) page on GOV.UK or email the [Service Desk](#).

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4. Provider Gateway: Quality Improvement Activity Documents

Information

Please do not upload quality improvement activity documents to the self-assessment report (SAR) section of the [Provider Gateway](#) after **31 March**.

Where supplied, we will collate all quality improvement activity documents uploaded from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016 and transfer the information to Ofsted.

In future, Ofsted intends to request this information directly from you each year. Ofsted or the SFA may request this information at the point of inspection notification.

Ofsted will contact all colleges and other training organisations later this year to request updated information. This will set out guidance and timelines of how and when to submit information.

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

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5. Publicly-funded Qualifications Guidance

Information

We have published updated publicly-funded qualifications guidance for awarding organisations. These documents describe how we identify qualifications that are eligible for funding as part of:

- a. 19- to 23-year-old learners' [legal entitlement](#) to a first full Level 2, first full Level 3 and English and maths qualifications.
- b. [Qualification Eligibility Principles](#) for local flexibilities within the Adult Education Budget.
- c. [Advanced Learner Loans](#).

The updates reflect feedback we have received and align with Version 2 of the Funding Rules 2016 to 2017.

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

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6. Legal Entitlements: Eligible Qualifications

Information

We have published updated guidance on how we identify qualifications that are eligible for funding as part of [Legal Entitlements for 2016 to 2017](#). We have also published:

- a. An **updated list** of the qualifications at Levels 2 and 3 that are eligible as part of the legal entitlement.
- b. The **final list** of English and maths qualifications that are eligible as part of the legal entitlement.

You will find the latest information on all qualifications eligible for public funding in the learning aims search facility in **the Hub** in April.

For further information, please email the **Qualifications** team.

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7. Advanced Learner Loans 2016 to 2017

Information

The Advanced Learner Loans 2016 to 2017 application service will be available from 16 May. This is for learners who wish to start eligible qualifications from 1 August 2016 funded with a loan.

To support this, we have updated the **Learning and Funding Information** letters. You must issue these to learners, including **offenders in custody**, who are considering funding their qualification with a loan. We have also published **guidance** on how to complete the letter.

For further information, please email **Advanced Learner Loans**.

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8. European Social Fund: Supplementary Data Guidance

Information

We have published guidance for the [supplementary data collection](#) for the European Social Fund (ESF) 2014 to 2020 Programme.

The collection is for claiming and adjusting costs not collected through the individualised learner record. This is a technical document and sets out the principles and features of the collection.

Please share this with your data manager and management information system supplier.

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

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9. Funding Rates and Formula Version 2 and European Social Fund


Information

We have published the following funding rates and formula documents:

- a. [Funding Rates and Formula 2016 to 2017 Version 2](#). This sets out the principles and features of the funding system for the 2016 to 2017 funding year. There are two minor changes from Version 1, explained in paragraph 5.
- b. [European Social Fund Funding Rates and Formula 2016 to 2017](#). This sets out the principles and features of the funding system for the European Social Fund (ESF) programme for the 2016 to 2017 funding year. Please read if you want to tender for ESF contracts in the 2014 to 2020 programme.

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



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