



## 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. **Provisional Qualification Achievement Rates and Minimum Standards Dashboards 2014 to 2015**
3. **The Register of Training Organisations: Closes for Applications Wednesday, 2 March**
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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. Individualised Learner Record R07 2015 to 2016: Closes Friday, 4 March

### Action

The individualised learner record R07 data collection for the 2015 to 2016 funding year is open and will close on **Friday, 4 March**.

If you are due to make a return for R07, you must submit your data to [the Hub](#).

We publish a [maintenance schedule](#), which lists collection dates and proposed system maintenance.

For further information, please refer to the [Payments and Data](#) page on GOV.UK.

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## 2. Provisional Qualification Achievement Rates and Minimum Standards Dashboards 2014 to 2015

### Information

On **Monday, 29 February**, we will publish provisional 2014 to 2015 qualification achievement rates (QARs) and minimum standards (MS) to [the Hub](#) and the provider gateway.

The QARs cover apprenticeships and education and training. We will make a business intelligence (BI) dashboard available on [the Hub](#) and a detailed data extract available on the provider gateway. You can access the dashboard from the Hub using the 'My BI' tab.

For help and advice on how to access the Hub user roles, please refer to [Update 292](#) or email the [Service Desk](#).

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### 3. **The Register of Training Organisations: Closes for Applications Wednesday, 2 March**

#### **Information**

The Register of Training Organisations (the Register) is currently open and closes for applications at **5.00pm** on **Wednesday, 2 March**.

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 on GOV.UK or email [Register Help](#).

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### 4. **Advanced Learner Loans: Application Guidance for a Loan Facility**

#### **Information**

Colleges and other training organisations that do not have Advanced Learner Loans facility can apply for £75,000 to £500,000 of facility for the 2016 to 2017 academic year.

Application guidance and the criteria we will use to assess applications is available on the [Advanced Learner Loans](#) page on GOV.UK. We will not assess any applications that do not meet the criteria.

To apply, please complete an application and send it to [Advanced Learner Loans](#) by **Monday, 14 March**.

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## 5. **Advanced Learner Loans: Subcontracting**

### **Information**

We will remove **Advanced Learner Loans Subcontracting** from the start of the 2017 to 2018 funding year.

This follows a review of subcontracted loans delivery and learner and sector feedback. This will protect the interests of learners who use loans for their training, and public funds.

We have consulted with stakeholders including the Student Loans Company and informed the Association of Employment and Learning Providers and Association of Colleges in advance of this announcement.

We have allowed an 18-month period to enable lead contractors and current loans subcontractors to transition to the new arrangements. This will minimise any disruption for current learners, whose loans-funded training is subcontracted.

To provide feedback about how this affects your delivery model for subcontracted loans, please email **Advanced Learner Loans**.

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## 6. **Funding Statements 2016 to 2017**

### **Information**

Shortly, we will issue 2016 to 2017 funding statements. 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 [Adult Education Budget: Changing Context and Arrangements for 2016 to 2017](#) document.

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

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## 7. FE Choices: Learner Satisfaction and Community Learning Surveys

### Information

The Learner Satisfaction and Community Learning surveys will close on 1 April. To achieve a representative sample and gain a valid score, please encourage your learners complete the relevant survey:

- a) Learners funded under the Adult Skills Budget, Advanced Learner Loans, and those aged 16 to 18 funded by the Education Funding Agency, must complete the [Learner Satisfaction survey](#).
- b) Learners funded under the Community Learning budget must complete the [Community Learning survey](#).

For further information, please refer to the [Information for Providers](#) page on GOV.UK or email the [Service Desk](#).

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## 8. Sixth-form Colleges: Apply to Become an Academy

### Information

The Department for Education has published [information](#) for sixth-form colleges that wish to become 16 to 19 academies.

This is available as part of the area review of post-16 education and training process. It sets out the criteria and process for making an application. It also gives information and advice to help sixth-form colleges decide if becoming a 16 to 19 academy is the right option in their individual circumstances.

For further information, please email the [Joint Area Review Delivery Unit](#).

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