



Skills Funding
Agency

Update

Issue 295
10 February 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. **The Register of Training Organisations: Opens Wednesday, 10 February**
2. **Legal Entitlement Qualifications Consultation**
3. **Publicly Funded Digital Skills Qualifications: Review**
4. **New Apprenticeship Standards: 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](#).

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

1. The Register of Training Organisations: Opens Wednesday, 10 February

Information

The Register of Training Organisations (the Register) will open for applications on **Wednesday, 10 February** and will close 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 of [GOV.UK](#) or email [Register Help](#).

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2. Legal Entitlement Qualifications Consultation

Information

We have published [information](#) on how we identify qualifications that are eligible for funding as part of a 19 to 23 year old learner's legal entitlement to a first full Level 2 and Level 3 qualification.

This process is the first step towards the simplified, single legal entitlement offer for learners aged 16 to 23.

We have launched a [consultation](#) on the transitional arrangements we are putting in place to arrive at a streamlined entitlement offer. Please complete the form to give us your views.

The consultation closes at **midnight** on **29 February**. We will publish a final entitlement qualifications list in March.

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

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3. Publicly Funded Digital Skills Qualifications: Review Information

We have published our [review](#) of publicly funded digital skills qualifications.

The review is in response to concerns raised by the government's Digital Task Force about the relevance and quality of digital skills courses in further education.

It contains an overview of digital skills we currently fund as part of the Adult Skills Budget (outside apprenticeships). It lists six recommendations for how we can improve digital skills. This is to ensure it remains relevant to learners and to the digital economy.

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

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4. 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:

- [proposals to develop new apprenticeships](#)
- [apprenticeship standards submitted for final approval](#)
- [apprenticeship assessment plan submitted for final approval](#)

Your feedback will help ensure that new apprenticeships are viable and widely supported.

The surveys close on **Friday, 12 February**; BIS will upload approved standards and assessment plans to the [Apprenticeship Standards](#) page of GOV.UK

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

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