



Skills Funding  
Agency

Update

Issue 293  
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## 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. **Mid-year Funding Claims 2015 to 2016: Deadline Monday, 8 February**
2. **Funding Rules, Funding Rates and Formula: Online Forum**
3. **'Recruit an apprentice': March Launch**

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. Mid-year Funding Claims 2015 to 2016: Deadline Monday, 8 February

### Action

You must make your mid-year funding claims by **Monday, 8 February** using the digital claim form on [the Hub](#) if you receive funds through:

- a grant for your Adult Skills Budget
- a grant with an Advanced Learner Loans Bursary contract
- a Discretionary Learner Support contract

The form will include your individualised learner record R06 information and will be available on **Friday, 5 February**. You must add your forecasts for the remainder of the 2015 to 2016 funding year.

You will not be able to complete the form after the deadline on Monday, 8 February.

To help you complete the form we have published [Technical Guidance](#); for related queries, please contact your Central Delivery Service adviser.

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## 2. Funding Rules, Funding Rates and Formula: Online Forum Information

This week, we will publish the first version of the funding rules that we hope will further simplify the adult funding system in 2016 to 2017. To support these, we will also publish a policy briefing on the Adult Education Budget (AEB).

- Funding Rules 2016 to 2017
- Funding Rates and Formula 2016 to 2017
- AEB policy briefing

We are making a number of important changes to enable funding decisions to be more accountable to the needs of local areas. We invite all colleges and other training organisations to review version 1 of the rules and share your feedback with us. We will review all the comments we receive and publish a final version in March 2016.

From **Monday, 1 February** to **Friday, 12 February**, we are hosting an online forum on **feconnect** to answer questions on the Funding Rules.

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### 3. 'Recruit an apprentice': March Launch

#### Information

In March, we will replace **Apprenticeship vacancies (Av)** with the new, faster and more usable 'Recruit an apprentice' and 'Recruit a trainee' services. We will host the new services on **GOV.UK**, where they will offer the following benefits:

- 1) Linking users to employers within the site.
- 2) Built-in validations for wages/working hours on the vacancy posting form.
- 3) Simpler vacancy management tools.
- 4) Clearer feedback from our advisers.


They will complement the '**Find an apprenticeship**' and '**Find a traineeship**' search and application tools we launched for candidates last year.

Transferring these services to **GOV.UK** forms part of the government's wider aim of combining its services onto one platform.

For more information, please email **Find an Apprenticeship**.

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