Department for Education

Investigation Outcome report

Provider: London Academy for Applied Technology

Background

In July 2024 the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) commenced an investigation relating to apprenticeship funding claimed by and paid to London Academy for Applied Technology. The concerns involved:

- The accuracy of data submitted in support of apprenticeship funding claims
- The validity of some claims for apprenticeship funding
- The employment status of learners enrolled onto apprenticeships
- Learners funded for maths and English learning aims which they had previously achieved.

Outcomes of the investigation

The outcomes of the investigation were:

- The investigation identified that the employment status for some learners could not be evidenced for the entire duration of their apprenticeship.
- Some records required to support funding claims did not comply with the funding rules.
- The investigation also identified that funding had been claimed for learners to undertake maths and English learning aims despite the associated learners having already achieved this with a previous training provider.

The following breaches of the apprenticeship funding rules were identified:

Framework	Breach	Issue
Apprenticeship funding rules 2022-23 and 2023-24	P34, P27.1 and P264 for 2022-23 P64, P58 and P229.1 for 2023-24	The employment status for some learners could not be evidenced for the entire duration of their apprenticeship

Published: November 2026

Framework	Breach	Issue
Apprenticeship funding rules 2022-23 and 2023-24	P328, P328.1, P328.2, P328.3 for 2022-23 P266, P266.1, P266.2 for 2023-24	Examples of ineligible off-the-job training records were identified
Apprenticeship funding rules 2023-24	P25, P25.1, P25.1.1	Learners were enrolled onto functional skills aims they had already achieved

Action

The following corrective actions have been taken:

- The provider has reviewed and implemented changes to its procedures. The provider withdrew 5 of its learners from functional skills aims.
- The DfE identified an overpayment of £198,920.10. The department is taking steps to recover this funding.

Prevention

Upon the conclusion of the investigation, the DfE undertook a prevention analysis exercise to establish what could have been done to prevent the breaches that were identified in the investigation.

Issue	Prevention
The employment status for some learners could not be evidenced for the entire duration of their apprenticeship	Providers should ensure that apprentices are in paid employment for the duration of the apprenticeship and take appropriate action where employment ends.
Examples of ineligible off-the-job training records were identified	Providers should ensure all recorded off-the-job training activities are compliant with the published funding rules.
Learners enrolled onto functional skills aims they had previously achieved	Providers should ensure they comply with the relevant functional skills funding rules to ensure learners are eligible for funding.

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