

Update

Issue 12
30 June 2010

**Skills
Funding
Agency**

Welcome

Update is our round up of business critical information to Skills Funding Agency providers. If you have any feedback please get in touch by emailing: update@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk.

All back copies and the current issue of Update are available on the Skills Funding Agency website: <http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/funding/allthelatest/providerupdate/>.

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Simplification for colleges and training organisations

Information
Action

We reported in [issue 11](#) of Update that [Guidance Note 4](#) would clarify how the Skills Funding Agency will implement the freedoms and flexibilities announced by the Minister as part of the [broad ambitions for Further Education](#). Guidance Note 4 and earlier issues are available to view and [download](#).

National minimum wage – exemption for apprentices

Information

The new Government has announced its acceptance of the [Low Pay Commission's](#) (LPC) recommendations concerning Apprenticeships pay.

From 1 October 2010 the exemption from the national minimum wage for apprentices will end, and all apprentices in the UK will be paid at least £2.50 an hour. The new legislative rate applies to apprentices under 19, or aged 19+ but in the first year of their Apprenticeship.

The Government has also written to the LPC setting out the [remit for their 2011 report](#) and asked them to pay particular attention to the competitiveness of small firms and the employment prospects of young people, including those in apprenticeships and internships.

The LPC will report to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills by the end of February 2011, with their recommendations for October 2011.

Adult Safeguarded Learning – Requirements for funding 2010/11

Information

Guidance on the arrangements for Adult Safeguarded Learning (ASL) for 2010/11 is [now available to read online](#).

The arrangements for the ASL programme are similar to those in previous years. There is also a "Digital Life Skills" section, which explains the [Online Basics](#) offer made to all adults without ICT skills.

New skills development options for training providers

Information

Training provider employer engagement staff will have two new skills-specific Level 4 qualifications to consider as part of their development plans from September 2010. The qualification framework will include a Certificate and a Diploma in Providing Skills Advice to Business.

Based on the new National Occupational Standard (NOS) in Business Support, they have been created in consultation with skills professionals.

The Certificate in Providing Skills Advice to Business will be particularly relevant to provider staff who are already qualified in business support, but who wish to top up their knowledge of particular sectors or skills solutions. It could also be suitable for those whom a qualification in advice on skills and learning provision to business would be helpful in their role.

The Certificate in Brokering Skills Advice to Business can be counted towards acquiring this Diploma. They share units on the QCF to complement each other and make their achievement as flexible as possible.

Assessment centres are currently being briefed by the awarding body, [SFEDI](#). For more information, please telephone 0845 224 5928 or [email](#).

BIS FE and Skills newsletter

Information

BIS produce a FE and Skills newsletter. The [latest issue](#) has just been published, and the next issue is due to appear at the end of July.

June Statistical First Release (SFR)

Information

The latest Statistical First Release (SFR) on post-16 education and skills: learner participation, outcomes and level of highest qualification held has just been published. The full report and supplementary tables can be viewed on the [Data Service website](#).

National Success Rates tables

Information

National Success Rates tables, previously known as Benchmarking Reports, will be available on the [Data Service website](#) from 22 July. This is as a result of action taken to address the issue of duplicate records in 2008/09 learner responsive success rate reporting.

Next Step contractor details

Information

The 12 organisations who will deliver Next Step, the free integrated adult careers service in England, [have been announced](#). Next Step will make information, advice and resources available online, telephone and face to face, helping adults of all ages make the right choices about skills, careers and qualifications, from August.

New success rates e-learning module

Information

The [Data Service](#) is developing a new e-learning module on success rates aimed at providers in the FE sector. It will help to train staff in the fundamentals of qualification success rates. To ensure that the module will meet the needs of providers, the Data Service would like to invite you to take part in testing a beta version. This will be available from 27 to 30 July. If you would like to find out more or register your interest, please [email](#).

Increased final funding allocations for ALR 2010/11

Information

In March, colleges and providers were informed that final funding for ALR allocations that had been previously capped was to be increased. This was as a result of the moderation process and also a recalculation of 2010/11 allocations for providers who had rebased in 2009/10 releasing funding back into the budget.

Colleges and providers concerned should now have received confirmation of their revised final funding statements. Should there be any queries, your Skills Funding Agency account management teams will be able to advise.

Learning Records Service

Information

The Learning Records Service has released new standardised texts for privacy notices. These are for the benefit of schools, colleges and learning providers to incorporate into their course registration and application forms, plus administration systems for the next academic year.

Further information, including examples of the recommended wording for the privacy notices, can be found on the [Learning Records Services website](#).

The Skills Funding Agency funds and regulates adult further education and skills in England.

An agency of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills.

The Skills Funding Agency complies with The Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998 and information on our Privacy Policy can be found at: <http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/privacy.htm>.