

Update

Issue 20
25 August 2010

**Skills
Funding
Agency**

Welcome

Update is our round up of business critical and useful 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](#).

Please forward and share this with relevant colleagues within your organisation.

In this issue:

- **ESF procurement**
- **Changes to the Campaign Resources Site**
- **Skills Funding Agency Web Alerts**
- **Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Access to Diploma Courses**
- **New Next Step Course Directory**
- **Get onboard with Get online week 2010**
- **Apprenticeships Employer Badge**
- **Data Service releases Period 12 Employer Responsive Qualification Success Rate reports**
- **Useful telephone numbers and websites**

ESF procurement – Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) notices and Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PQQ) launch

Information Action

Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PQQs) and Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) notices are now live and running for two ESF procurement opportunities:

- one supporting Young People NEET (as part of the shared service agreement with the Young People's Learning Agency); and

- another for accessing Community Grants.

In order to view the PQQ for these opportunities and respond if applicable, providers need to first register on the Skills Funding Agency [eTendering portal](#).

Providers will receive a username and password for the portal on the Bravo Solution website.

Once logged into the portal, providers can select the option 'PQQs open to all suppliers', select either or both ESF PQQ from the full list of opportunities and then select the option to 'Express an interest'. The system will add the PQQ to the 'My PQQs' section of the provider's account in Bravo Solution, allowing them to access all documents and questionnaires and respond accordingly.

Providers should **only** direct queries via the PQQ message board. It is not appropriate to seek advice or answers to questions via any other route, in order to maintain the integrity and robustness of the process.

For further information, please refer to the [European Social Fund](#) section of the Agency's website.

Changes to the Campaign Resources Site from 1 September

Information

Action

From 1 September, we will be making it easier and more convenient for you to find the Skills Funding Agency campaign logos, guidelines, materials and templates. The Skills Funding Agency and the Young People's Learning Agency's campaign materials used to be held on the Campaign Resources Site. From next week the Skills Funding Agency campaign materials will be kept in the new [logos and design guidelines](#) section of the Agency's website. The Skills Funding Agency Campaign Resources Site web address 'skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/campaignresources' will be redirected to this page.

The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) materials will be stored in the 'Publications' section of the [YPLA website](#) and will still be accessible via the [YPLA Campaign Resources Site website](#). Please update any shortcuts that you have set up for the Campaign Resources Site.

Skills Funding Agency Web Alerts

Information

Action

As you are aware Update is emailed to the lead contact in each organisation on a Wednesday afternoon. Although there are no immediate plans to expand our database of contacts, colleagues and other interested parties can sign up for Web Alerts on the [Skills Funding Agency website](#). The website will then alert the individual (via email) to the publication of new documents on the website, including Update.

Please note that if you are planning to take Annual Leave you may wish for a colleague to sign up for alerts, to ensure your organisation does not miss any time critical information in your absence.

Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Access to Diploma Courses Information

In advance of the Skills Funding Agency Funding Guidance being published in September, providers are asked to note that while Access to HE Diploma programmes are not part of the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) they are eligible for Skills Funding Agency funding.

The Quality Assurance Agency Access to HE Diploma is a preparation for higher education study where people have few or no other qualifications and have been out of education for some time. The Diplomas are developed by Further Education and Higher Education providers together, so that they will be an acceptable entry qualification for higher education.

New Next Step Course Directory Information Action

The new Next Step Interim Course Directory, which contains up-to-date course information, is now available on the [Careers Advice website](#) under 'find a course', and will also be linked to the [Skills Accounts website](#).

Please find useful Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and helpful information for providers relating to the Course Directory and Provider Portal on the [website](#).

Get onboard with Get online week 2010 Information

The BBC and UK Online are launching their 'First Click' campaign on 11 October, targeting over 55's that are not currently using the internet: Get Online week will run from 18 – 24 October.

The Next Step service is working in partnership with the BBC and UK online and will handle the calls for both campaigns.

As a provider if you would like to find out how you can support the campaign please visit the [website](#), or email ukonlinecentres.

Apprenticeships Employer Badge Information Promotion

You may have seen the increased media interest this week in Apprenticeships, partly due to the run up to exam results. To tie in with this, the National Apprenticeship Service wants to make providers aware that there is a badge available for employers of apprentices to highlight their commitment to Apprenticeships. This can be displayed by organisations on their websites; in return their logos will be displayed on the Apprenticeships website.

Please communicate to the employers that you work with, that this badge is available on the employer section of the [Apprenticeships website](#).

Data Service releases Period 12 Employer Responsive Qualification Success Rate reports Information

The Data Service released the Period 12 Employer Responsive Qualification Success Rate reports on the Provider Gateway on 20 August 2010. Further details are available on the [Data Service website](#).

Useful telephone numbers and websites Information

Employers (up to 5000 employees) - [Train to Gain](#) or 0845 600 9 006

Employers (5000+ employees) - [National Employer Service](#) or 024 7682 5815

Learners/individuals – [Next Step](#) or 0800 100 900

[National Apprenticeship Service - Employers](#) or call 08000 150 600

[National Apprenticeship Service - Learners](#)

[Skills Pledge](#) or call 0845 600 9006

Skills Funding Agency enquiries - Switchboard - 0845 377 5000 or [contact us](#)

[The Data Service](#) or call 0870 267 0001

[Learning Records Service](#) – Customer helpdesk call 0845 602 2589

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 on the [Skills Funding Agency website](#).