

**EAST MIDLANDS TRAIN TO GAIN
PROVIDER BULLETIN ISSUE 50**
W/C 1ST FEBRUARY 2010



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Learning and
Skills Council

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Provider use of Employer Unique Reference Number (URN)

It has been noted that a small number of providers have created "generic" employer Unique Reference Numbers (URNs) rather than using the Employer Data Registration Service (EDRS) to gain an individual number. Providers must adhere to the *information authority* regulations in the Specification of the Individualised Learner Record that states for Field A44 Employer Identifier regarding Train to Gain.

"For all learning aims this field must be completed using the employer ID from the Employer Data Registration Service (EDRS) system"

Whilst further research is being undertaken in the use of such generic numbers the example currently found uses the URN "123456789". This URN is actually assigned to a perfectly respectable small website business in London Region - this business is in no way party to the incorrect usage of its identifier number.

This number must not be used to create generic areas for learners. Regions need to ensure any provider using this generic number, must cease such activity and not attempt to change to any other generic alternative – a number must be requested from EDRS for every individual employer site.

Revised employer bank details form for Contribution to wage costs

A revised bank details form has been uploaded to the Engage website, which should be used for future employer claims:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/natctwc_organisation_detailsnov09.pdf

The form has been updated to include tick boxes for the accounting category of the business: sole trader, partnership, limited company and other. Previously this had to be manually checked for each claim so if the appropriate box is ticked

on the form, it will speed up the allocation of the unique employer payment code (the P number). There are no changes to the claims process.

Employers Guide to Training

Attached are the latest figures showing searches on the Employers Guide to Training website (<http://www10.employersguide.org.uk/egtnat/>). This includes cumulative search information from April 2009.

The figures show searches under criteria such as:

- Training keyword
- Region
- Study type
- Venue type
- TtG/TQS flag

The figures also contain information on providers, qualification and course type cross-referenced against the above criteria.

EGT December Portal Report	 EGT dec portal report.xls
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Refreshed Train to Gain leaflet

A new leaflet is now available as a download at the campaign resources site:
www.lsc.gov.uk/campaignresources

It is available in both low and high resolution. **N.B. the leaflet is not available in print.**

Given the LSC is not currently running campaigns, the leaflet is intended primarily to inform providers, partners and stakeholders. The leaflet will be sent to members of the national Train to Gain stakeholder forum so they can use it as they see fit. This should help to address the claim made by the British Chambers of Commerce at the December meeting of the forum that employers think Train to Gain has ended.

The leaflet contains the most up to date statistics on Train to Gain and the amended web address and telephone numbers for further information. The profile of the SME flexibilities has been reduced significantly in line with changes flagged in the recent Skills strategy and there is increased emphasis on how Train to Gain and Skills can help businesses survive.

Content on the LSC funded Leadership and Management programme, and Apprenticeships has been refreshed to reflect the growing importance of these Skills offers.

Justice Sector Employers – (Prison, Police, Probation, Courts and Tribunals)

Through the agreement of the Justice Sector Compact, employers within the Justice sector, outlined above, are now, or shortly will be, able to access Train to Gain funding. The Compact is not intended to reduce the amount of funding employers currently spend on training - through matched funding by the LSC; it will build extra capacity and enable employers to train more people at every level and access a wider range of provision. **However, Joint Investment Frameworks must be agreed and in place prior to delivering training to these sector employers:**

Prison Service – As part of the Justice Sector Compact HMPS have signed up to a national Joint Investment Framework therefore engagement and delivery can take place in this sector. Matched investment is monitored and tracked at a national level using ILR data.

Police Forces – Resulting from the Justice Sector Compact Police Forces should only access Train to Gain funded provision where a Joint Investment Framework is agreed and in place. JIFs with the Police Forces will be agreed at force level with the regional LSC. Skills for Justice have a phased plan of engagement with forces and will contact regions when engagement is scheduled to begin. If you are approached by a force wishing to engage please contact Julie Mather in the Employer Engagement Team of the Regional Employer Skills Service in the first instance.

Probation Service – As part of the Justice Sector Compact the Probation service are currently piloting a JIF approach in a number of regional areas including the Midlands. Skills for Justice will support the negotiation and agreement of JIFs. If you are approached by any part of the probation service wishing to engage please contact Julie Mather in the Employer Services Team of the Regional Employer Skills Service in the first instance.

Courts and Tribunals - Due to the small size of the workforce, as part of the Justice Sector Compact work, a letter of intent is being developed. Until this is in place no training should be carried out. If you are approached by any part of the Courts and Tribunal Service wishing to engage please contact Julie Mather in the Employer Services Team of the Regional Employer Skills Service in the first instance.

Julie Mather can be contacted at julie.mather@lsc.gov.uk
or telephone 0116 228 1921/mobile 07775 905 186

Train to Gain and Apprenticeship Provider Event – 29th January 2010

Copies of the slides are available via the Engage web site - <http://engage.traintogain.gov.uk> then drill down via 'in your Region' to the East Midlands where you will find the relevant link.

Skills Pledge Update

In the 12 months to November 2009 the East Midlands region has performed extremely well in building up the numbers of Skills Pledges both by numbers of employers and numbers of employees covered. The region had an additional 1588 employers (3rd highest of all regions) and 218,366 employees (2nd highest).

This highly creditable result has primarily been the result of activity by the Business Link community who have gathered in 1695 Skills Pledge commitments in the same period.

Previous bulletins

Previous issues of the Train to Gain provider bulletin are now available to download from:

http://engage.traintogain.gov.uk/in_your_region/east_midlands/newsandevents/regional_bulletin/

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