



LSC SW Region

Guidance on Train to Gain Eligibility for Public Sector Organisations

- 1 This is a SW region interim statement on eligibility for Train to Gain pending agreement of a national policy position between the LSC and DIUS.
- 2 The current eligibility rules for Train to Gain funded provision deems the public sector should lead by example and invest in the development of their workforce. In the case of many public sector employers, investment into training budgets is made direct from Treasury. If the LSC were to invest in addition, this could be interpreted as duplicate funding, therefore it is considered inappropriate for them to receive Government funding under the same terms as private and voluntary sector organisations.
- 3 However, double funding issues have been overcome where we have been able to develop and implement a Joint Investment Framework (JIF) approach. This approach offers a strategic service, not a transactional one, delivered through Train to Gain on the basis of a deal for a deal. It levers employer investment and LSC investment in line with current priorities for respective funding streams; for example, employer funds pay for 'thin' qualifications **and/or contribution to** L3 and L4 whilst LSC funds pay for L2, Skills for Life and Apprenticeships. (NB: All the eligible starts and outcomes achieved through this route may be claimed by the provider concerned.)
- 4 There are five broad categories of public sector organisations:
 - a **Government Departments and Agencies** e.g. Ministry of Defence, Department for Work and Pensions, Met Office, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. These organisations are NOT eligible for Train to Gain. The only exception applies to a small number of departments included in the Skills for Justice Sector Compact – see below
 - b **Local Authorities** e.g. County, Unitary, Borough, District, Town and Parish Councils. This group also includes Dartmoor/Exmoor National Parks Authority, Fire & Emergency Services (whether operated as Council Department or shared authority) and learning support/teaching staff in LEA maintained schools. These organisations are eligible for Train to Gain under the terms of the Joint Investment Framework agreed between LSC, SW Employers and SW Local Government Association. In all cases, arrangements must be transacted via the nominated skills broker to ensure JIF principles are demonstrable.

- c **National Health Service** e.g. primary care trusts, hospital trusts, care trusts, ambulance services and all commissioned NHS service providers e.g. GP surgeries, pharmacies, dental surgeries etc. These organisations are eligible for Train to Gain under the terms of the Joint Investment Framework agreed between LSC, Skills for Health and NHS SW. In all cases, arrangements must be transacted via the nominated skills broker to ensure JIF principles are demonstrable.
- d **Police Service** organisations are currently NOT eligible, but see note below regarding Skills for Justice Sector Compact.

5 The recently announced **Skills for Justice Sector Compact** will extend eligibility to some organisations that are currently ineligible. In all cases a national JIF agreement will set out the specific terms applying to the organisations concerned. The current status is:

- a HM Prison Service staff are eligible. National arrangements will apply for Custodial Care NVQs, but all other provision will be transacted regionally by a nominated skills broker and not directly with providers.
- b Police forces will individually be required to agree local JIF arrangements with the LSC and Skills for Justice. The first of these is likely to be agreed by May '09 and others will follow in due course. In all cases provision will be transacted by a nominated skills broker and not directly with providers.
- c Negotiations are underway with HM Courts Services, Tribunals Service, Probation Service, HM Borders Agency, HM Revenue and Customs Prosecution Service, Crown Prosecution Service, British Transport Police and voluntary sector organisations (e.g. NACRO, Victim Support etc), but until further announcements are made these organisations are NOT eligible for Train to Gain

6 These arrangements are current as at March 2009, but subject to change. The LSC is aware that in a small number of cases some providers have agreed arrangements, in good faith, which fall outside this guidance. These cases and these alone will be honoured, and this interim policy will be implemented from March 2009 for all providers. In all cases, skills brokers will agree terms with the employer organisation, therefore they will have details of the latest position and matched funding requirement.

7 These public sector eligibility restrictions do not apply to Apprenticeships.

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