

NVQ level 4 Qualifications in Employer Responsive provision 2008/09

Q. I deliver level 4 qualifications but not in the workplace. Are these included in Employer Responsive provision, and therefore in Train to Gain?

A. No, only NVQs delivered partially or wholly in the workplace are within Employer Responsive Provision.

Q. I deliver level 4 qualifications to learners who are either not employed or it has nothing to do with their employment as they are sponsoring themselves. Are these included in Employer Responsive provision, and therefore in Train to Gain?

A. No, only NVQs delivered partially or wholly in their workplace are within Employer Responsive Provision. Only those unemployed learners defined as 'volunteers' are eligible for Train to Gain, see main funding guidance.

Q. I deliver the Advanced Apprenticeship in accounting. Last year I could continue the learners on to an NVQ AAT level 4 after they achieved their Advanced Apprenticeship. Can I still do this?

A. Providers who have previously delivered level 4 qualifications can continue to recruit learners in 2008/09. However, it should be noted that from 2009/10 NVQs in Accounting (AAT) will all be funded through the respective 16-18 and Adult Learner Responsive funding models, subject to budgetary constraints, and not through Employer Responsive funding. This change does not affect other level 4 NVQ qualifications delivered in the workplace.

Q. Why are the NVQs in Accounting (AAT) being moved from the Employer Responsive Funding model to 16-18 and Adult Learner Responsive funding models?

A. The NVQ in Accounting is delivered in classrooms with no assessment undertaken in the workplace. Although learners complete work-based assignments these are evaluated away from the workplace and at the end of the learning the learner is required to undertake an exam in order to prove their competence. This mode of delivery fits with the 16-18 and Adult Learner Responsive funding models and not Employer Responsive.

Q. I thought that NVQ level 4 in Accounting (AAT) was part of an Apprenticeship?

A. Only level 2 and 3 NVQ in Accounting (AAT) form part of an Apprenticeship framework in Accounting. Providers who wish to enquire about the development of a Higher Level Apprenticeship (level 4) in accounting should contact the Financial Services Sector Skills Council who regulates Apprenticeships in this sector.

Q. The funding rate for level 4 qualifications has been considerably reduced. When I started the cohort I currently have in learning I was not aware that the rate would be reduced and have resourced the qualification based on the rate at the start of learning and not these new rates. Are you doing anything about this?

A. Learners who started prior to 2008/09 in Work-based Learning will receive the same rate as they did in 2007/08. Providers will claim the difference in 2008/09 based on what they receive in 2008/09 and what they did receive in 2007/08. This claim will be made on the Training Provider Statement. This funding can be claimed for both the monthly instalments and the final outcome payment. Unlike in the transitional arrangements for Apprentices funding should be claimed monthly and is not dependant on achievement.

Funding for providers, who previous delivered NVQ level 4 qualifications through Work-based Learning, will be phased to the new lower rate over two years. The transitional rate for learners who start in 2008/09 will be the midpoint between the 2007/08 and 2008/09 rates. Again payments should be claimed monthly.

From 2009/10 all level 4 new starts on Employer Responsive funding will be at the nationally published rates. The transitional rates will apply only to the respective learner cohorts for 2007/08 and 2008/09.

Further details will be made available for 2010/11 in due course.

Q. Do the transitional arrangements apply to learners who transferred from FE to the Employer Responsive model in 2008/09?

A. Colleges who delivered FE NVQs in the workplace in 2007/08 which transferred to Employer Responsive funding in 2008/09 will not receive transitional funding as a college would have already have received Transitional Protection funding in 2008/09.

Q. I did not deliver NVQ Level 4 qualification in 2007/08 but would like to offer them in 2008/09. Can I receive funding for this?

A. The LSC is constrained by the funding we receive from the government and the targets and priorities we are set. Funding for level 4 qualifications is a lower priority than level 2 and 3 qualifications and this is reflected in the volumes and funding we allocate. Providers who wish to extend their provision must contact their LSC partnership manager to discuss whether there is an opportunity to offer level 4 qualifications.

Q. Will we be funded for delivering a level 4 qualification to a learner who already holds that level of qualification or higher?

A. No. From 2008/09 level 4 qualifications can only be funded where the learner has not achieved this level of qualification. Therefore only those learners whose highest level of qualification is level 3 will be eligible.

Q. The change in funding for additional level 4 qualifications has come out very late! We already have learners who started in September who already hold a level 4 qualification. What do you expect us to do?

A. It is recognised that the guidance was not issued earlier. Therefore any learners who commenced their additional level 4 qualification prior to 1st December will be funded as a new start in 2008/09. That is, where the provision was historically delivered under FE in 2007/08 that standard Train to Gain rates apply. For Work-based Learning providers a transitional rate at the mid-point between 2007/08 and 2008/09 rates will apply.

Q. Can I increase the amount of level 4 provision that I delivered in 2007/08?

A. It is not expected that the volume of level 4 qualifications will increase in 2008/09. Providers should talk to their LSC contact who will be able to advise them.

Q. Can I deliver level 4 qualifications through ESF?

A. Level 4 provision may be offered via European Social Funds where it has been procured for by a specific region. Providers will be delivering under an LSC ESF contract where this is the case. For more information on ESF contact your local partnership team.

A. How should I code the ILRs for level 4 qualifications in 2008/09?

Q. All 'NVQ only' provision previously delivered through WBL or FE in 2007/08 is now classified as Train to Gain in 2008/09 and should be coded as such (A10=45, A15=99, A18=22 or 23 and A44 should be completed for new starts).