

Update

Issue 27
13 October 2010

**Skills
Funding
Agency**

Welcome

Update is our weekly round up of business critical and useful information to Skills Funding Agency providers. If you have any feedback, please get in touch by emailing the [Update mailbox](#).

Both the current and back issues of Update are kept on the [Skills Funding Agency website](#).

Please forward and share Update with the relevant colleagues within your organisation. Colleagues might also like [to register for web alerts](#), which will alert you via email when new issues of Update and important announcements are added onto the [Skills Funding Agency website](#).

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Important change for Further Education Colleges regarding the Office of National Statistics

Action

Information

The Office of National Statistics has announced a change in the way Further Education and Sixth Form colleges are treated in the National Accounts. It has chosen to reclassify Further Education Colleges as part of central government from 1 April 1993. Further Education colleges have previously been classified as part of the private sector. It has also decided that Sixth Form Colleges should be classified as Local Government bodies since April 2010 when they were created with the passage of the Apprentices, Skills Children and Learning Act 2009.

The decision will have implications for the way colleges are treated for national account purposes and may have an impact on the collection and monitoring of financial information for institutions.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills wrote to all colleges on Wednesday 13 October to inform them of this change.

Further information will be posted on the Update page of the [Skills Funding Agency website](#) and providers who are registered for web alerts will be able to see this information as soon as it is available. All key messages for providers regarding this matter will also be included in future editions of Update.

Delivery of Further Education Provision in Cumbria

Action

The Chief Executive of Skills Funding is inviting applications to take over the delivery of Further Education provision at the Newton Rigg campus, Penrith and / or the Brampton Road campuses' of the University of Cumbria, Carlisle in Cumbria. The University of Cumbria, who currently provide a wide range of general and specialist Further Education courses in the area, are looking to cease delivering Further Education provision to focus on Higher Education from August 2011.

An advert was placed in the Times Educational Supplement (TES) on the 1 October regarding the University of Cumbria divesting its FE provision. The TES advert is seeking expressions of interest from existing or new providers.

To formally register an expression of interest, organisations should email [Sarah Garner](#) by noon on Friday 15 October 2010.

Quarter 1 Data Returns – 19+ Employer Responsive and 16-18 Apprenticeships

Action

The Skills Funding Agency's new performance management approach which was outlined in Update on 29 September comes into effect in November. It is crucially important that data returns are submitted on time and accurately. For more information, please see the [Skills Funding Agency website](#).

Learner Responsive Individualised Learner Record returns

Action

The first Learner Responsive Individualised Learner Record (ILR) return of 2010/11 (LR01) will hard close on 6 December 2010.

Providers are asked to review the ILR guidance in advance of submitting the first Learner Responsive ILR return of 2010/11 (LR01) to the Data Service to avoid data being rejected and consequently impacting on the information used to calculate funding allocations for 2011/12. The important changes to note for 2010/11 are available on [the Information Authority website](#).

Exceptional Additional Learning Support Claims

Action

Exceptional Additional Learning Support (ALS) Claims for the 2009/10 year must be received at the Agency by 22 November 2010, the deadline for FO5 Individualised Learner Record returns. This is a 'hard' cut off - 2009/10 claims received after this date will not be considered.

Exceptional ALS (amounts over £19,000) are met from a centrally held budget and not from the learning provider's allocation. The High Level ALS Claim Form must be used for exceptional ALS claims. A copy of the costs form can be downloaded from the Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities area of the [Agency website](#).

For 2010/11, learning providers should submit estimated funding claims for learners whom they expect will require exceptional ALS – and submit these to their Account Manager for approval. This will give us an indication of the budget required to meet Exceptional ALS needs for 2010/11. Claims for 2010/11 will be paid in November 2011.

2009/10 Employer Responsive Period 13 Individualised Learner Record return

Action

The deadline for the 2009/10 Employer Responsive Period 13 Individualised Learner Record return (W13) is 12 November 2010. This date is a 'hard close', so no further returns will be accepted after 6:00pm on 12 November 2010. Details on what providers need to include in the W13 return are available from [the Information Authority website](#).

Browne Review published

Information

The Government has received the report 'Securing a Sustainable Future for Higher Education' – an independent review of higher education and student finance.

The review, led by Lord Browne, was tasked with making recommendations to Government on the future of fees policy and financial support for full and part-time undergraduates and postgraduate students in England.

Secretary of State for Business, Vince Cable said:

“We will judge their recommendations against the impact on student debt, ensuring a properly funded university sector, improving the quality of teaching, increasing social mobility and attracting a higher proportion of students from disadvantaged backgrounds”.

The full report and summary are available on the [Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' website](#).

The Government will respond in more detail following the Comprehensive Spending Review, on 20 October 2010.

Publication of Adult Learner Responsive Funding Requirements Information

The Adult Learner Responsive Funding Requirements document has now been published on the [Skills Funding Agency website](#). This replaces the draft guidance, published in August 2010.

Sexual orientation and faith equality workshops Information

The Skills Funding Agency is supporting a series of workshops that will help colleges and providers to create a safe and inclusive environment for all learners and staff.

The [Forum for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Equality in Post-School Education](#) (the Forum) is working with [Lifelong Learning UK](#) and the [National Council for Faith and Belief in Further Education](#) to provide practical advice on issues such as how to encourage dialogue and cohesion between people of different sexual orientations, religions and beliefs.

The workshops are free to attend and will take place at various locations around the country.

For further information (and details of times and venues) please refer to the [Lifelong Learning UK website](#).

State Aid 19+ Training Aid monitoring Information

The Skills Funding Agency has applied for a new State Aid block exemption for training aid covering 19+ higher level non-entitlement skills delivery in the workplace.

Operating from 1 August 2010, it will ensure that employers satisfy the European Commission State Aid rules for higher level training activity covered by employer responsive provision (including Train to Gain, Apprenticeships, Joint Investment Programme and other successor programmes).

The [Employer Responsive Requirements for Funding](#) have been updated to clarify employer and provider responsibilities

More information can be found on [Skills Funding Agency website](#), where you can also find a toolkit containing detail on process, Question and Answers and links to forms.

Please send any queries to the [State Aid Block Exemption mailbox](#).

College and Public Provider payment patterns Information

The Skills Funding Agency has produced an Employer Responsive guidance note for Colleges and Public Providers outlining Employer Responsive provision for adults (19+ Apprenticeships and Train to Gain) payment patterns.

The note provides information on the profile pattern percentages that providers can expect to receive during 2010/11 Academic Year.

For further information about the payment pattern, please refer to the [Employer Responsive payment guidance document](#).

Countdown to the Games Information

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are less than two years away. As part of the preparation for London 2012, Podium, the Further and Higher Education Unit for the Games in 2012, is hosting a 'Countdown to the Games'. This national event will set out what remains to be done before 2012 and the opportunities open to colleges to engage with all aspects of preparations.

It takes place at the [ExCeL Centre](#) on Tuesday 8 February 2011. The day is scheduled to run from 10:15am to 5pm and will be followed by a drinks reception until 6pm.

[Register and find out more](#)

Train to Gain – recording of unfunded learners Information

The Information Authority can confirm that the instruction providers received from the Skills Funding Agency on 20 July 2010 about recording unfunded learners on Train to Gain provision in the Individualised Learner Record is national guidance and should be followed.

[Find out more.](#)

Individualised Learner Record validation reports (rule violation reports) and funding reports

Information

The Data Service would like to reiterate the importance for providers to check their Individualised Learner Record validation reports, after they have submitted an Individualised Learner Record batch file. These reports provide detail on the accuracy of a provider's return and will highlight any errors and warnings that should be corrected or actioned. Details on how to access these reports and what providers need to do are available on [the Data Service website](#).

Young People's Learning Agency e-bulletin

Information

The Young People's Learning Agency produces a weekly e-bulletin which can be found on the [Young People's Learning Agency website](#), or you can register for automatic [web alerts](#) from the Young People's Learning Agency.

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>.