

Update

Issue 16
28 July 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: <http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/funding/allthelatest/providerupdate/>.

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Urgent action required for period 12 ILR returns for Employer Responsive provision – payments may be affected

**Information
Action**

There are currently a large number of records that will not migrate into the 2010/11 database for the start of Period 1. This affects nearly all providers and is of particular importance for

Provider Online (POL) users. The records will not migrate because they do not meet the new ILR data standards and validation rules for certain fields. POL users must correct the data held in POL before the period 12 return close date. If this is not done it may affect performance data and payments.

Action must be taken before **5 August 2010**, the close date for the period 12 return.

Detailed guidance can be found on the [Information Authority website](#).

Expressions of interest for Adult Learner Responsive Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) flexible delivery

Information Action

As part of the ongoing implementation of the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) the Skills Funding Agency is keen to take forward work with colleges and providers in receipt of Adult Learner Responsive funding around flexible delivery of QCF qualifications.

We are inviting expressions of interest from colleges and providers who wish to be involved in action research around the flexible delivery of QCF qualifications. This will need to take place within existing allocations as there is no additional funding, but the work is centred on how colleges and providers can deliver QCF qualifications flexibly and begin to test out credit accumulation and transfer.

The trials will take place from September 2010 until July 2011, and will focus on understanding how colleges and providers are using the flexibilities of QCF in a “live” operational environment and assess the costs and affordability of flexible delivery from a provider and learner perspective. This is limited to the delivery of QCF qualifications confirmed for funding in ALR. The closing date for expressions of interest is 13 August 2010. Further information can be found [here](#) or by [email](#).

Guidance Note 5

Information

[Guidance Note 5](#) is now available and sets out how colleges and training organisations will be performance managed during 2010/11 in line with the new flexibilities announced by the Government in June.

Fee grant letter for FE providers

Information

In July 2009, BIS announced changes to the student support available to all trainee teachers undertaking part-time Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses, which would take effect from September 2010.

Further detail on how these changes will be administered is now available in [the fee grant letter to FE providers](#).

Skills consultation

Information

John Hayes, Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, has invited employers, individuals, colleges and training organisations to share their ideas on how they would like skills policy to be set out in the future. The consultation document [Skills for Sustainable Growth](#), outlines BIS's vision for skills and what are expected to be the key elements of a strategy for delivering it. This is complemented by the consultation [Simplified Further Education and Skills Funding System and Methodology](#), which seeks views on how the skills funding system can be made simpler and more effective.

Providers are encouraged to read the consultation documents and to respond via the BIS website. The Skills Funding Agency will also be taking opportunities to discuss the consultations with providers and stakeholders during the 12-week consultation period.

Matrix standard assessment and accreditation process

Information

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills started a procurement exercise for the management of the Matrix standard assessment and accreditation process. The existing contract ends on 30 July 2010. Unfortunately this process has had to be terminated and no replacement contract has been awarded. The Department intends to start a new tender exercise to appoint an organisation to manage the Standard. Further information can be found [here](#).

Learner Responsive National Success Rates tables 2008/09 released

Information

The Data Service has released Learner Responsive National Success Rates tables (previously known as Benchmarking Data) for the academic year 2008-09. The tables, associated guidance notes, FAQs and links to the archive of previous years tables are located in a dedicated section on the [Data Service website](#).

Closure of Free childcare for training and learning for work

Information

The Government has taken the decision to stop the free childcare for training and learning at work national trial scheme from 31 August this year. No new applications can be accepted. Full information is available from the [YPLA website](#).

Discretionary Learner Support Guidance and Requirements 2010/11 for learners aged 19+

Information

The Discretionary Learner Support Guidance and Requirements 2010/11 – for learners aged 19+ has been published. You can find this on the [YPLA website](#). This document provides information and local authorities receiving allocations of Adult Discretionary Learner Support funding from the Learner Support Directorate within the YPLA.

If you have any queries about the document, please [email](#).

FE data management principles – consulting with the sector

Information

Over the last few months the Information Authority (IA) has worked with the Further Education (FE) Data Management Group to develop guidance for the FE sector in addressing data issues, so that users of the data can be assured of the quality and reliability of information relating to FE.

The group has worked with the IA to develop six data management principles for inclusion in the ILR guidance documents that will assist providers in developing consistent data reporting practices. These were approved for consultation by the Information Authority board at its meeting on 16 June and are now out to the sector for comment.

You are encouraged to [submit your comments](#) on these principles.

Learning Records Service operational guidance for all service users

Information

Service News is a summary of business critical information for all service users of the Learning Records Service.

It has been redesigned to include regular top tips on ULN admin improvement, operational guidance plus information about service enhancements, all to help reduce the admin burden for providers. The [July edition](#) is available to view.

Adult Foundation Learning Curriculum guidance

Information

Revised guidance about who is eligible for the adult Foundation Learning Curriculum has been published following clarification about funding for 19-24 year olds by the YPLA and Skills Funding Agency.

Paragraph 11 of [Factsheet 1.1](#) has been revised to reflect the clarification about funding. For further information, please contact the [helpdesk](#).

Train to Gain recording of unfunded learners for 2009/10 Information

A [fact sheet](#) confirming the existing policy on the recording of unfunded learners on the [Train to Gain](#) programme and other useful information has been produced and is now available to view and download.

Skills Funding Agency endorsement logo guidance Information

Guidelines and advice regarding accessing and using the Skills Funding Agency logo and identity are available for providers to view and download.

Endorsement logos and guidance are available at the [identity brand site](#). If you were a member of the Learning and Skills Council's brand site, your log in and password will be the same as before.

If you are a new user, there is a short application form to [register](#) on the brand site. It will ask you for an email address of a Skills Funding Agency "sponsor". Add the email address of your Account Manager and they will authorise your request as soon as possible.

The [Campaign Resources Site](#) (CRS) is managed jointly by the Skills Funding Agency and the YPLA. The CRS contains collateral for products such as Adult Learning Grant and Train to Gain.

If you are already registered on the CRS, your username and password will remain the same. However, if your contact details change (particularly your email address), visit the "Edit Profile" section of the CRS to update them. Please note that the Apprenticeship identity guidelines, logos and other collateral have been moved from the CRS to the [Apprenticeships website](#).

If your provision is funded through the European Social Fund (ESF), you are also required to feature the ESF logo which can be downloaded from the [ESF website](#).

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>.