



Pearson UK – Funding News

Friday 16 January 2015

Funding News provides a regular round-up of 16-18, 19+ and apprenticeship funding, and related news from government departments, funding agencies and other relevant organisations.

Funding news this week includes the publication of the Government's response to the Apprenticeship Funding Reform Technical consultation, guidance on becoming an Apprenticeship Training Agency, and an updated business cycle wall planner from the Education Funding Agency. It also includes a reminder about the latest Skills Funding Agency simplified funding catalogue for 2014/15 which includes the Level 2 BTEC NQF Firsts automatically approved for 19+ funding as a result of being included in the 16-19 performance tables. And, as always, we point you in the direction of the latest from Steve Besley.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills – Response to Apprenticeship Funding Reform Technical consultation

BIS published its two-page [response](#) to the Apprenticeship Funding Reform Technical consultation (and the 20-page summary of the consultation responses) this week. The response isn't conclusive in that the plan is to undertake further detailed design work before a final decision is made about which funding mechanism will be used (PAYE or credit model), but they do reaffirm their commitment to the employer contribution, and giving employers direct control of apprenticeship funding.

'The principle that employers should make a cash contribution towards the cost of their apprentices' training remains a significant part of our reform of apprenticeships, but I will ensure that the new funding model is implemented so that it is simple, efficient and appealing to employers of all size – including businesses taking on an apprentice for the first time.'

'Giving employers direct control of apprenticeship funding remains a core and non-negotiable part of our reforms ... However, based on the feedback to the consultation, we have concluded that further detailed design work is needed before we can reach a final decision on which funding mechanism will be taken forward to meet our shared aim of more high quality apprenticeships, where employers hold the purchasing power.'

Skills Funding Agency – Apprenticeship Training Agency – Recognition process, guidance and application form

The Agency released a 23-page [guide](#) on becoming a recognised Apprenticeship Training Agency (ATA) today. The model is intended to promote and support the delivery of high quality apprenticeship programmes by giving employers access to ATAs to source, arrange and host their apprenticeships. The Agency encourages ATAs to work with and support smaller employers to help them hire and employ apprentices in their businesses. The guide explains the ATA model and includes sections on the ATA framework, the application guidance and form, and answers some frequently asked questions.

Skills Funding Agency – Latest release of the simplified funding catalogue for 2014/15

The latest [simplified funding catalogue](#) was released by the Agency last week. The catalogue lists the qualifications the Agency has approved for public funding in 2014 to 2015 and their funding rates. The update includes the 12 Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 NQF Firsts that have been automatically approved for 19+ funding as a result of being included in the [16-19 performance tables](#) (in the technical certificate category). The remaining Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 NQF Firsts not automatically approved cannot be funded for 19+ learners under the current rules but we

expect the new funding guidance from the Agency, due out this month, to allow us to make submissions for 19+ funding for NQF qualifications. The first simplified funding catalogue for 2015 to 2016 is also expected this month.

The 12 Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 NQF Firsts now approved for 19+ funding for 2014/15:

- 601/0167/2 Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media Production
- 601/0166/0 Diploma in Creative Digital Media Production
- 601/0258/5 Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment
- 601/0259/7 Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment
- 600/6630/1 Extended Certificate in Engineering
- 601/0545/8 Diploma in Engineering
- 600/6072/4 Extended Certificate in Information and Creative Technology
- 601/0169/6 Diploma in Information and Creative Technology
- 601/0233/0 Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism
- 601/0234/2 Diploma in Travel and Tourism
- 601/0231/7 Extended Certificate in Hospitality
- 601/0230/5 Diploma in Hospitality

Education Funding Agency – Business cycle wall planner 2015

The EFA published an update to its [business cycle wall planner](#) this week which sets out deadlines and milestones from January to December 2015 to help institutions plan ahead. It will be useful for general further education colleges (GFEs), sixth-form colleges (SFCs), special post-16 institutions, commercial and charitable providers (CCPs), local authorities (LAs), maintained schools (MS), maintained special schools (MSS), non-maintained special schools (NMSS), higher education institutions, young offender institutions, Youth Contract providers, European Social Fund funded providers, and dance and drama schools (DaDs).

Pearson – Steve Besley's Policy Watches

The latest from Steve Besley includes [Policy Eye - week ending January 16 2015](#), [Pocket Watch – The \(economic\) case for soft skills](#), [Pocket Watch – Managing curriculum reform](#), [Policy Eye - week ending January 9 2015](#), and [Pocket Watch – Key education themes for 2015](#). Find these and the archives on the [Pearson UK](#) website.

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Information is correct at the time of writing and is offered in good faith. No liability is accepted for decisions made on the basis of information given.