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## Pearson UK – Funding News

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*Funding News provides a regular round-up of 16-19, 19+ and apprenticeship funding, and related news from government departments, funding agencies and other relevant organisations. Internal and external colleagues can sign up to receive Funding News directly to their inbox by subscribing [here](#). Funding News can also be found on the [Pearson UK](#) website along with Funding Focus documents which provide quick summaries of recent funding developments, or particular aspects of the funding system.*

In Funding News this week we bring you an analysis of the reforms to apprenticeship funding from the Institute of Fiscal Studies, and news from the SFA that the online apprenticeship service is now open, and the latest apprenticeship frameworks withdrawals. The EFA has published their second review of end of year 16 to 19 study programmes data 2014/15, and the post-16 funding allocations supporting documents for 2017/18. In adult funding news the SFA closes the adult education budget procurement for independent providers on Monday next week, and in Pearson news we bring you more detail about the extensions to the BTEC QCF Nationals., new free webinars on apprenticeships reforms and the latest round-up of policy news from Steve Besley.

### Apprenticeship funding

- Institute for Fiscal Studies: analysis of reforms to apprenticeship funding
- Registration now open for the online apprenticeship service
- Proposal to withdraw fourth batch of apprenticeship frameworks

### 16-19 funding

- Review of end of year 16 to 19 study programmes data 2014/15
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## Apprenticeship funding

### [Institute for Fiscal Studies: analysis of reforms to apprenticeship funding](#)

At the end of January the IfS released '[Reforms to apprenticeship funding in England](#)', an analysis of reforms to apprenticeship funding and a chapter from the forthcoming IFS Green Budget 2017. The analysis examines the new system for funding apprenticeships and its potential effects and finds that the significant expansion and design of the new system risks it being poor value for money, that specific elements of the system could end up being particularly damaging to the public sector where they could cause costly reorganisation of training and inefficient ways of working, and that it could have a potential dampening effect on wages and profits.

### [Registration now open for the online apprenticeship service](#)

On 13 February the DfE and SFA opened the online [apprenticeship service](#). This will now be known as the 'apprenticeship service' rather than the 'digital apprenticeship service' or 'DAS'. DfE and SFA are encouraging large employers to sign up and register for the apprenticeship service, in readiness for the launch of the [apprenticeship levy](#) on 6 April 2017. The apprenticeship service is an online digital system (similar to online banking) that has been set up to support the apprenticeship levy. The service allows employers to financially manage their apprenticeship programme and help them to estimate their financial spend and recruit apprentices through their training providers.

### [Proposal to withdraw fourth batch of apprenticeship frameworks](#)

The SFA are asking for [feedback on the withdrawal](#) of the fourth batch of apprenticeship frameworks by 5pm on 5 April 2017. The frameworks included in this proposal have replacement apprenticeship standards that cover the same occupations. The SFA expects the replacement standards to be ready for delivery by 1 April 2018 and the proposed last date for new starts on these frameworks is 31 March 2018. Feedback can be provided through the SFA's [online survey](#). More information can be found on the SFA's [removal of apprenticeship frameworks](#) page.

## 16-19 funding

### [Review of end of year 16 to 19 study programmes data 2014/15](#)

The EFA has, for the second year, undertaken a [review of data](#) provided by institutions delivering study programmes to young people. The reviews are carried out to ensure public funding is for provision that meets the core principles of study programmes. In both reviews the EFA found that, for the vast majority of institutions, the funding formula has had the planned impact on delivery. The data shows there has been an increase in the proportion of students in the full time funding bands and a decrease in the proportion of students in all the part time funding bands. There has also been an increase in the proportion of students participating in work experience. More students are studying Level 2, Level 3 qualifications or work experience with the proportion of students with a Level 2, Level 3 or work experience increasing over a 3 year period between 2012/13 to 2014/15. The proportion of students studying and achieving maths and English GCSE or stepping stone qualifications continues to increase year on year.

### [Post-16 funding allocations supporting documents for 2017/18](#)

The EFA are uploading [post-16 funding allocation statements](#) for colleges, schools and academies to the EFA Information Exchange to help institutions understand their allocation. They expect the allocations for



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most of these institutions to be available by the end of February. As in previous years the EFA base funding allocations for 2017/18 on 2016/17 lagged student numbers. The final allocation statement includes a breakdown of the calculations.

## Adult funding

### Adult education budget (AEB) procurement: closes Monday 27 February

In January the SFA wrote to independent training providers about the changes in [public contract regulations](#) which affect their contracts to deliver the adult education budget (AEB). The changes mean the SFA cannot automatically renew all contracts at the end of the current contracting term. At the beginning of February the SFA launched a competitive procurement exercise using the funding released from these contracts and this was open to all eligible organisations on the Register of Training Organisations. The competitive procurement exercise closes at 5pm on Monday 27 February 2017. Independent training providers holding an existing contract who choose not to tender, or fail to secure funds through the procurement, will be offered a new contract applying the threshold facility. This will be a run-down contract and for one year only. As a condition of this offer providers must prioritise learners that want to continue from 2016/17 into the 2017/18 funding year.

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### Extension of the BTEC QCF Nationals

Pearson is extending many of the BTEC QCF Nationals and more detail about this can now be found on our website [here](#).

- The larger BTEC QCF Nationals in England will be extended until September 2018. This is to allow colleges and providers that enroll **16-19** students on smaller BTEC QCF Nationals in September 2017 (say, for example, because they are not sure at the outset whether the student wants to do two year qualification), to move them to the larger qualification by September 2018 if they need to. The extension is not for new starts in September 2018.
- We will be extending the BTEC QCF Nationals for longer in sectors where we have not redeveloped the qualifications on to the new framework, and in Wales and Northern Ireland.
- The SFA haven't published the lists of qualifications that will be made eligible for 19-23 funding in 2017/18 as yet but we do not expect these qualifications to be made eligible for **19-23** funding in England in 2017/18. DfE and SFA policy is to only fund qualifications on 16-19 performance measures for 19-23 funding in 2017/18. These qualifications will not be on performance measures.
- The extensions need to go through Ofqual and then need to be approved by the DfE, and the EFA for funding. We have no reason to think these won't be approved but it will take a while before they show on the systems.

### Free Pearson apprenticeship webinars: opportunities for employers in new apprenticeship standards

The [next webinars in the Pearson series](#) look at opportunities for employers in new apprenticeship standards. One is aimed at large organisations and will be held on Tuesday 7 March 2017 (4-5 pm), and the other at SMEs and will be held on Tuesday 23 March 2017 (4-5 pm). Do sign up if you are interested as they fill up quickly. You can sign up to access recording of all the previous webinars at the bottom of the page, and these cover: new apprenticeships, the story so far; new standards, new delivery challenges; targeting and winning employer clients; a new approach to apprenticeship funding;



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opportunities for employers in new apprenticeships standards; and progress towards the new funding regime.

## Policy updates

The latest policy updates from Steve Besley include (see [Pearson Policy Watch](#) for these and more):

- [Policy Tracker – Keeping track of what happened in the world of education in February 2017](#): A summary of everything education in the UK in February 2017.
- [Policy Eye - Highlights of week ending Friday 10 February 2017](#): Some weighty issues and some illuminating details.

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