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Insight Webinar #6.2 - Progress towards the new funding regime 24 January 2016

Questions & Answers

Q What percentage of the funding for each award will be used for the end point assessment and is there any more information regarding how these will be set up/facilitated?

A The funding methodology means that 20% of the funding will be kept back for achievement which has led some to speculate that the end point assessment (EPA) costs will be 20% of the funding band for an apprenticeship standard. However, there is no fixed % cost for the EPA and Apprenticeship Assessment Organisations will price these on a case-by-case basis depending on the costs of development and delivery.

Pearson is running a webinar on end point assessment in February. Sign-up details will be available shortly [here](#).

Q We are an organisation who will pay the levy (approx 105k). We have applied to the Main route for RoATP. When we use the funding to pay for our apprentices the training arm of the organisation will be appointed as the training provider. Can the training provider arm (even though it is the same legal organisation) release the funding in to hard cash to pay for training from the outset?

A Firstly you may only need to be on the RoATP as an Employer-Provider if you only want to deliver apprentices to your own employees, but you may have applied as a Main Provider if you want to deliver to employees of other organisations.

The funding flow for levy payers who are providing apprenticeship training to their own employees can be found in the [Apprenticeship employer-provider guide](#):

- Funds will be removed from the digital account and paid to the training arm (via BACS or similar) on a monthly basis on return of data through the ILR.
- If there aren't enough funds in a digital account, government will co-fund 90% of the balance and the employer will be liable for the remaining balance of the training cost.

Q Will the Adult Learning Loan still apply?

A Adult Learning Loans are still available but these are not for apprenticeships. Loan funding was originally just for 24+ year-olds, and for levels 3 and 4, but this has been extended in 2016/17 to cover 19+ year-olds, and levels 3, 4, 5 and 6. (Certain 19-23 year-olds are eligible for full funding for certain qualifications so it is advisable to check this before offering a student a loan.)

When loan funding was first introduced in 2013/14 apprentices aged 24+ were also expected to take out loans to replace the government funding available for apprenticeships. However, loans for apprentices were dropped from February 2014 onwards as the impact on take-up was significant. Apprenticeships are funded by government and employers; not the apprentice.



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Q Can someone with a degree now complete an apprenticeship with the funding changes?

A Yes. An apprentice can be funded to undertake an apprenticeship at the same or lower level than a qualification they already hold, if the apprenticeship will allow the individual to acquire substantive new skills and you have evidence that the content of the training is materially different from any prior qualification or a previous apprenticeship.

Q How about degrees? Are they the same as A levels in regards to previous qualifications?

A Yes. The rule is that an apprentice can be funded to undertake an apprenticeship at the same or lower level than a qualification they already hold, if the apprenticeship will allow the individual to acquire substantive new skills and you have evidence that the content of the training is materially different from any prior qualification or a previous apprenticeship. That applies to all qualifications including degrees.

Q Is that right that RoATP will re-open after 6th March. I haven't seen that in writing anywhere.

A The RoATP will open on a quarterly basis and we expect it to re-open shortly after the results of the first submissions are announced in March. I can't provide a link to this in writing I'm afraid.

Q If you have registered already for the RoATP and do not pick it up in March, do we have to re-submit application or does it happen automatically?

A I'm not sure if I've understood this question correctly but hope this answers it.

I don't think the SFA would automatically re-submit a failed application as it would fail again. Questions about RoATP applications can be sent to RoATP@sfa.bis.gov.uk

Q Some training providers are considering if they should offer GCSEs to learners with a D grade or below. Will any funding go towards GCSE as well as Functional Skills?

A Yes. I have checked the guidance and the SFA will fund apprentices to achieve qualifications in English or maths, if they do not meet the minimum standards set out by government A* to C (or 4 to 9), and they can be funded to take following GCSE or Functional Skills. The full rules can be found in [Apprenticeship funding: draft rules for training providers](#).

Q Full sub-contracting rather than must be the greater amount >50%. That's the first I've heard that it has changed?

A I'm not sure if I've understood this question correctly but hope this answers it.

In October 2016 the SFA confirmed the [new arrangements for the register of apprenticeship training providers](#) after the publication of the provisional guidance in August 2016.

In the August document the SFA proposed that a main provider would always need to deliver a significant majority of each framework or standard they contract with the employer to deliver, and would need the employer's agreement to subcontract parts of it. This requirement was revised in the October guidance. The SFA will require all approved main providers to directly provide training for each employer's apprenticeship programme that they deliver, but they will not be required to deliver a significant majority of each framework or standard. At the employer's request, and subject to their agreement, main providers will be able to bring in subcontractors to deliver whole, or parts of, frameworks or standards.

Q Will foreign owned companies have to pay the levy or are they just UK registered companies?

A The levy applies to employers operating in the UK.



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Q Does the funding for Functional Skills come from the Levy pot, or does that come from the SFA?

A It comes from the SFA. It is not taken out of the levy for levy-paying employers, and non-levy paying employers do not have to contribute. The full rules can be found in [Apprenticeship funding: draft rules for training providers](#).

Q Are the extra £1000 payments available for all companies regardless of employee size?

A Yes.

Q If an apprentice already has GCSE in English and Maths grade A*-C, will they get funded for English/Maths Functional skills?

A No. The SFA will fund apprentices to achieve qualifications in English or maths, if they do not meet the minimum standards set out by government A* to C (or 4 to 9). The full rules can be found in [Apprenticeship funding: draft rules for training providers](#).

Q When will EPA contracts be available to view and will they be a 3 way contract between the AO, provider and employer?

A The employer will select an apprentice assessment organisation to deliver the end-point assessment from the Register of Apprentice Assessment Organisations (RAAO). The main provider (or employer-provider) will contract with the apprentice assessment organisation that has been selected.

I will pass the question about EPA contracts to the team running the EPA webinar in February. Sign-up details for this will be available shortly [here](#).

Q Will a payment from the DAS be immediate and can it be paid all up front if employer and provider agrees to this?

A Funds will be removed from the digital account and paid to the provider (or training arm of n employer) on a monthly basis on return of data through the ILR.

Q How will the 10% be collected from the employers?

A Providers will need to invoice employers for employer co-investment, including any VAT.

Do contact funding@pearson.com if we have misunderstood your question or you have any follow up questions.