



Funding & Policy Update Webinar

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Agenda

- 1 Labour's planned changes
- 2 Adult Skills
- 3 16-19 Update
- 4 Apprenticeships Update and Discussion
- 5 Questions



Labour Planned Changes

King's Speech



- Establish an Industrial Strategy Council, to help build an industrial strategy in partnership with employers, unions nations and working people
- Skills Bill to be introduced to transfer functions from IFATE to Skills England. Skills England will convene employers, unions, training providers and experts in national government to:
 - Develop a single picture of national and local skills needs – This will be linked to the U.K's industrial strategy and will inform DFE policy priorities
 - Identify the training for which the Skills & Growth Levy will be accessible
 - Ensure national and local skills systems are meeting skills needs. This will include using national and local vacancy data to assess skills needs.
- Great British Energy (GBE) Bill will create a U.K. owned energy company, which will impact the skills needs in the U.K.
- The National Wealth Fund is to be introduced and fund the U.K's key sectors in the government's industrial strategy, including green skills

King's Speech



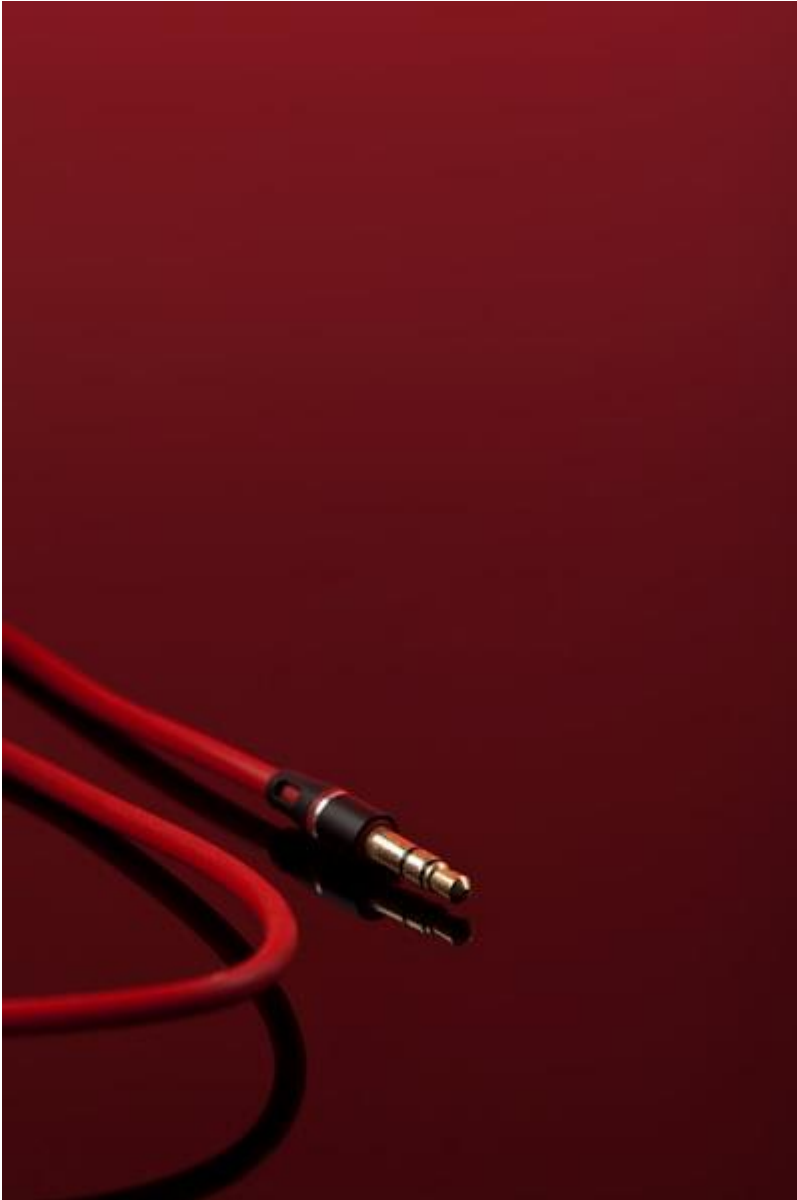
- The English Devolution Bill will establish a new framework for devolution, with an aim to move power out of Westminster and into local regions. It will provide leaders with the tools they need to drive growth by
 - Putting a more ambitious standardised devolution framework into legislation to give local leaders greater powers over the levers of local growth. This will include enhanced powers over strategic planning, local transport networks, skills, and employment support.
 - Making devolution the default setting, meaning regions will be granted powers without the need to negotiate agreements where they meet the governance conditions
 - Making it easier to provide devolved powers quickly to more areas through establishing a simpler process for creating new Combined Authority, and Combined County Authorities.



Other possible changes

- Introduction of a youth guarantee, which is guaranteed access to training, an apprenticeship or support to find work for all aged 18-21
- Introduction of a pre-apprenticeship or Foundation Apprenticeship programme to support more young people onto the career path of their choice.
- The revisiting of the Lifelong Loan Entitlement
- The transformation of FE colleges into Specialist Technical Excellence Colleges

Ofsted's Big Listen



- Introduced shortly after Martyn Oliver was confirmed as Ofsted's new CEO
- Was a process in which the organisation took feedback from relevant bodies and aimed to adjust their processes to achieve best practice
- The big listen has concluded, and Ofsted have confirmed that they will
 - Replace single word judgements with report cards and review their inspection framework. The new framework and report cards will be tailor made for FE and skills. Consultation for this development will begin later this year
 - New reports will provide local context on the school, which will support inspectors in determining how well the school are contributing to meeting local skills needs
 - Ofsted will lobby government to expand their remit to 14-16 part time provision and HTQs
 - Aim to make inspections more collaborative and supportive

ESFA to be dissolved and duties transferred to DfE

- ESFA operations and remit will full transfer to Depot for Education in March 2025.
- This will ensure providers have a single point of contact for funding and policy information
- The change aims to ensure a joined-up approach to funding regulation, and to improve accountability and drive provider improvement.



ESFA to be transferred

- Existing provider relationships with ESFA and framework (contract) documents will continue to work in the same way:
- Providers will continue to engage and work with the same teams on financial issues and funding. This will not change immediately
- Providers should continue to raise any enquiries they have through the DfE customer help portal.
- Providers will continue to receive all updates about funding related information through ESFA Update until 1 April 2025 – DfE will provide further information before then about any changes to communication channels after that date
- Providers will continue to access information about allocations and payments in the same ways they do now and continue to use the existing Gov mechanisms (ILR returns, FALA, provider data portal) to submit data or other information when required.
- All ESFA financial frameworks, funding rules and other guidance on GOV.UK will continue to apply.



Adult Skills

Reforms Paused

- Bridget Philipson has announced the pausing of qualification reforms and defunding for at least a year
- A review of the reforms are taking place, with updates expected in early 2025
- Qualifications due to be defunded in July 2024 are still funded unless the awarding body has decided to let the qualifications lose funding
- The ESFA have needed some time to add the funding back onto courses, consequently MIS leads may experience some ILR errors until the ESFA are able to update the ILR
- We are still expecting changes and qualification reforms, but this may look different under a new government.
- The government are undergoing a Curriculum & Assessment Review (CAR), and will release recommendations in 2025



Qualifications in the below SSEs which overlapped with T Levels were due to lose 16-19 funding

Wave	SSE	Defund Date	Qual List
1 & 2	Construction & the built environment	July 2024	Link
	Digital		
	Education & childcare		
	Health & science		

New Level 2 Qualifications



- DFE have released a list of level 2 qualifications which will gain funding and be released in the next academic year
- This is part of the original cycle 1 reforms
- Qualifications released are in
 - Building and construction
 - Child development and welling
 - Engineering
 - Health and social care
 - Manufacturing technologies
 - Sports leisure and recreation
 - Transportation operations and maintenance

New qualifications approved for funding at level 2 in England from 1 August 2025 – T Levels support for schools and colleges

Adult Skills Fund (ASF) Funding Rules

- English & maths functional skills entitlement will now fully fund learners who have previously attained the qualifications and are **currently assessed below grade 4**
- Learners aged 19-23 can now access qualifications from the Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) offer if they do not yet hold a level 3 qualification, regardless of earnings
- FE Colleges/Grant Funded providers will have a 97% threshold for under delivery in 24/25. this includes free courses for jobs
- Private providers with contract for services contracts will have contract value reduced if they are outside of tolerance for their individual contract



Adult Social Care Learning & Support

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) are providing funding to support “non-regulated care staff”, including deputy and Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered managers and agency staff to undertake certain training courses and qualifications which have been paid for and started between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025 (inclusive)

The overall funding pot is limited, with a claim deadline of 21st March 2025

There are caps on the total number of claims that can be reimbursed per claimant organisation

Funding can only be used to cover the cost of the course or training

60% of the funding will be provided at the start of the course, with 40% provided after completion



Care Support Scheme Eligible Qualifications



Qualification	QAN	Reimbursement Max
Level 4 Award in Independent Advocacy Practice	603/6889/5	£565
Level 3 Award in Understanding the Principles and Practices of Assessment	501/1648/4	£185
Level 4 Award in Understanding the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice	501/1649/6	£205
Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate	610/4226/2	£1500
Level 2 Award in Awareness of Dementia	501/1146/2	£125
Level 3 Award in Awareness of Dementia	501/1654/X	£185
Level 3 Diploma in Adult Care	610/0789/4	£815
Level 4 Diploma in Adult Care	601/5641/7	£1070
Level 5 Diploma in Leadership & Management for Adult Care	610/0977/5	£1525
Level 3 Award in Education & Training	600/9554/4	£185

16-19

2024-25 T Levels Funding Bands

- Funding rates for the 24/25 academic year for T Levels have been released
- The 10% T Level uplift introduced last year has been continued
- All TQs being released in 24/25 are on funding band 7 except for the animal care & science T Level
- T Levels released in 24/25 are in the following SSAs: Media, Broadcast & Production, Craft & Design and animal care & management

Funding Band	23/24 Rate	24/25 Rate	Increase
6	£10,876	£11,082	£206
7	£12,544	£12,782	£238
8	£13,794	£14,056	£262
9	£15,076	£15,330	£254

T Level ILR Data



- The ESFA calculate under and over delivery by reviewing student numbers in year in a provider's autumn census or R04
- Making errors in T Level data records can result in negative financial impact and a larger than expected financial recovery at the funding reconciliation point in early 2025
- The ESFA strongly recommends providers submit their Autumn school census or R04 before their return deadlines (6th November for school census, 5th December for R04). This allows providers to review their data and make amendments where needed

Apprenticeships



Growth & Skills Levy

- Labour have proposed turning the apprenticeship levy into a growth and skills levy, which will allow employers to use some of their levy funds for non-apprenticeship skills
- This new levy will be regulated, there will not be scope for employers to use this fund for regular L&D such as inductions
- DFE are likely to introduce the flexibility gradually, and will not immediately introduce a 50/50 apprenticeship/other skills funding split
- This development provides scope for changes and improvements to the system, including some major concerns such as 16-18 year olds not accessing apprenticeships and SMEs not being engaged in the apprenticeship process as a result of bureaucracy
- Current levy spend is high, creating challenges for introducing additional spending opportunities through non-apprenticeship spending
- POLL



Additional Learning Support

Additional Learning Support (ALS) changes have been introduced -

- Support/progress reviews can now take place every three months, reducing paperwork, resource use and enabling a timed approach.
- The detailed assessment to establish learning support needs must take place but can now be carried out by a professional SEN/LLD staff member, the assessment no longer needs to be L8 qualified SEND Professional.
- The detailed support needs assessment can now take place at any point in the apprenticeship, enabling support for learners who may have masked during the apprenticeship start process.



Apprenticeship Updates

- We're expecting a new version of the apprenticeship funding rules to be released this term
- GCSE grades 3, 2 and 1 are now considered the equivalent to a level 1 in English and maths
- The certification end date for apprenticeship frameworks is the 31st March 2025. Learners on frameworks must be able to complete their apprenticeship **and** be certified by this date
- Learners unable to meet this deadline should be withdrawn or moved to a standard

City & Guilds Support for Skills

City & Guilds provides a wide selection of programmes to help providers, employers and post 16 skills to thrive in the UK.

We are not only an Awarding Organisation, but a skills organisation that analyses workforce development both now and for the future.

To support skills in the UK we offer free webinars and workshops, podcasts. Relevant, insightful research and reports, a bursary programme, the PRTA's and our Foundation work.

Upcoming events include –

- End of September – Navigating the UK skills Challenges Podcast (available on all good podcast platforms – Google, Amazon, Spotify, You Tube, and the City & Guilds website).
- 4th December – Funding & Policy Update Webinar

Find out more on LinkedIn - [City & Guilds: Posts | LinkedIn](#)

Podcasts - <https://www.cityandguilds.com/events/podcasts>

Or email the funding & policy insight team –

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Apprenticeship Policy Changes – Discussion with Jamie Holland and Bryony Kingsland

Thank you!

Questions?