

*now what!—*

# **CORVID-19 WEB FORUM**

## **Friday 24 April 2020**

**This week's slide pack is supported by an EXTRA webcast, recorded on Sunday 26 April and containing an update on the range of FAQs and documents uploaded later on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> and therefore not available when the original forum webcast was made – the links to BOTH webcasts are in the final REOURCES slide in this pack.**

**Adrian Anderson, UVAC**

**Mandy Crawford-Lee**

**Rebecca Rhodes, UVAC**

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# Webforum Protocol



You will be on mute for the duration of the webforum



Slides and webcast will be available after the session on the UVAC website



To ask questions just type into the question box and we will raise them during the session – **if we can unmute you we will !**



Raise your queries, **read our FAQs** or share what you know on the Centre for Degree Apprenticeship Forum page **HERE**

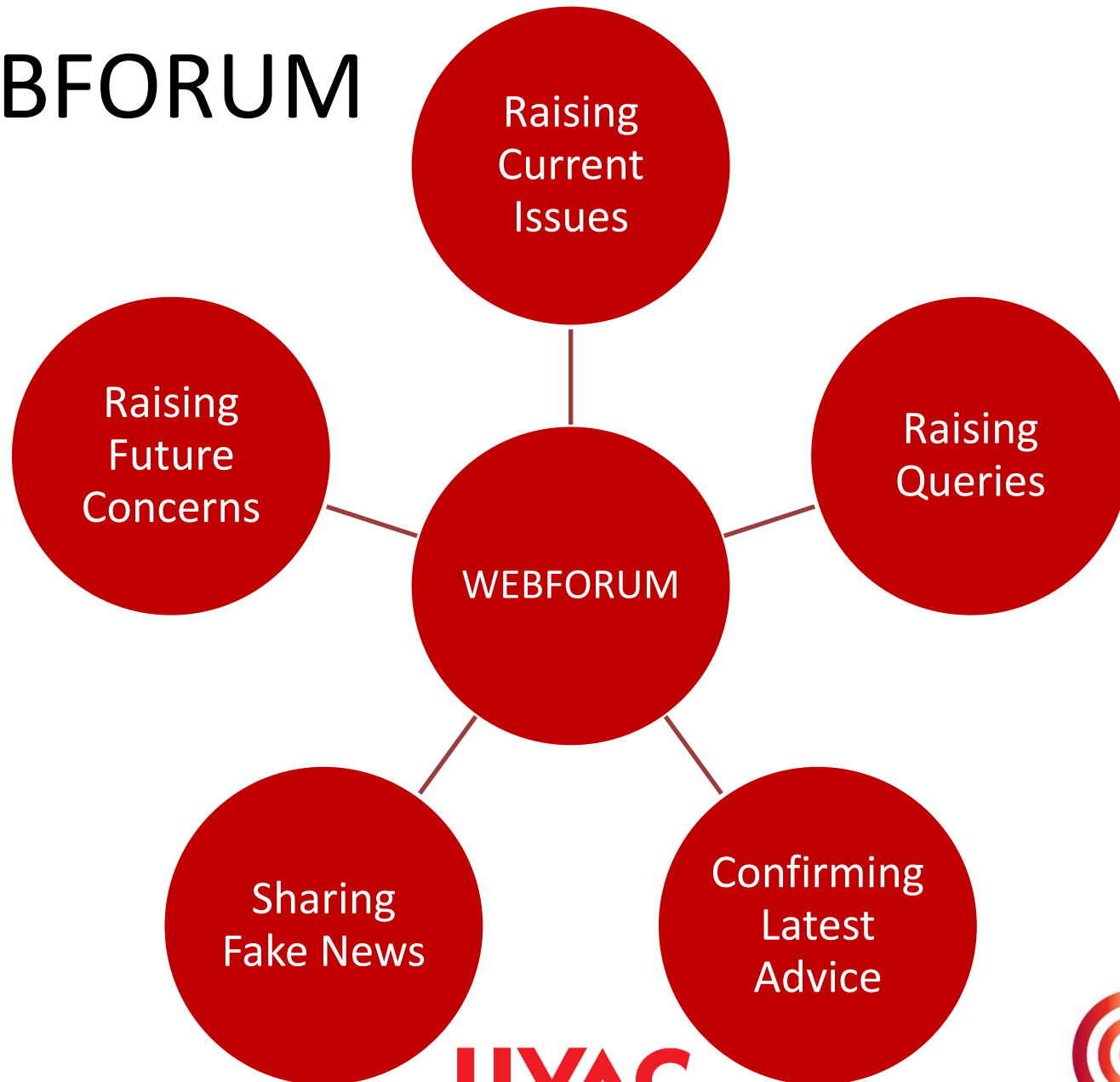


A quick feedback / hot topic request survey appears after the webinar.



May 1<sup>st</sup> Covid-19 Forum 12.00  
Register **HERE**  
Nursing Associate Forum 2pm  
Register **HERE**

# WEBFORUM



# EVENT & CDA UPDATE

Mandy Crawford-Lee

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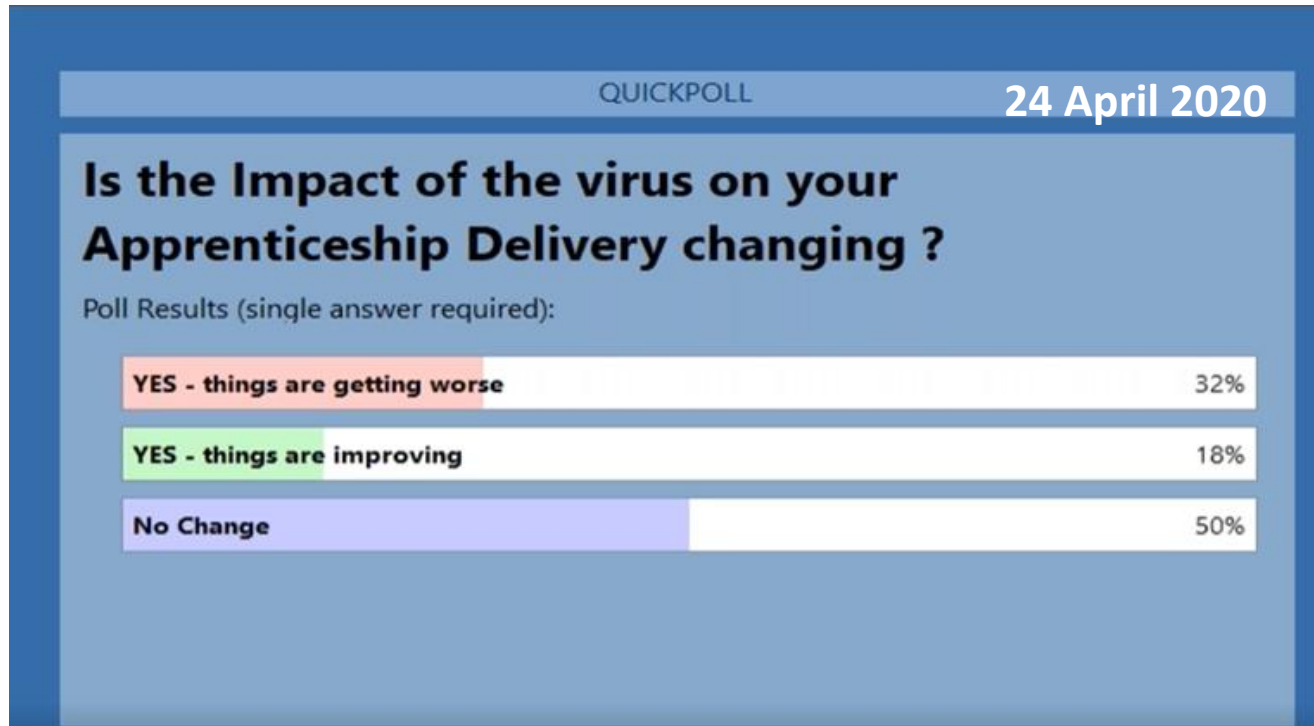




POLL

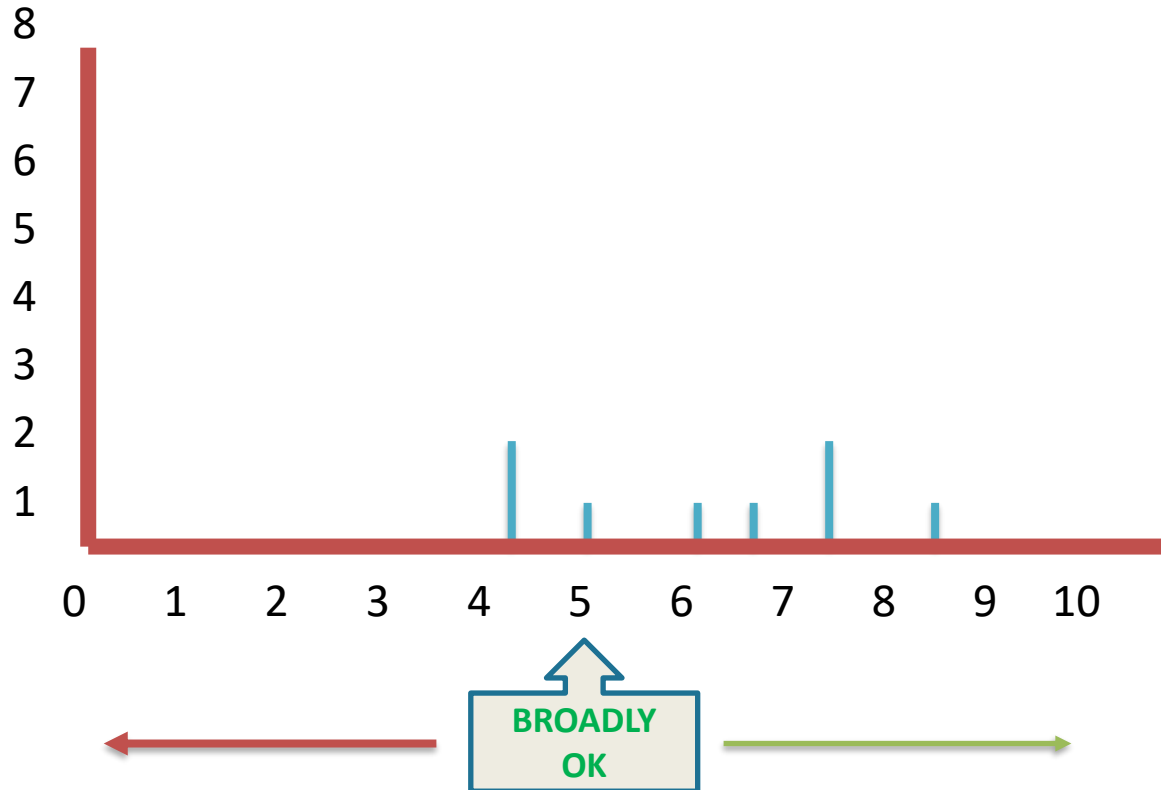
Is the Impact of the virus on your  
Apprenticeship Delivery changing?

# Quick Poll – Is the impact of the virus on your delivery changing ?



# Temperature Check Survey Results

– How are you feeling today ?



# Previously .....

covid-19 forum  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April



— now what! —

## NEXT SESSION

Friday 24 April to Register [CLICK HERE](#)

Questions in advance where possible to: [r.rhodes@bolton.ac.uk](mailto:r.rhodes@bolton.ac.uk)

## Previous Recordings:

Friday 17 April [CLICK HERE](#)

Thursday 9 April [CLICK HERE](#)

Friday 3 April [CLICK HERE](#)

## Outcomes agreed at the latest Forum:

1. UVAC to convene a forum with key organisations on the Nursing ( and wider medical ) EPA w/c 20 April
2. UVAC to produce a template for advice to apprentice and employers (see template below)
3. UVAC and ESFA to agree and populate a scenarios advice guide for apprenticeships during furlough
4. UVAC to produce, based on the Staffs University template, a template for employers and apprentices to confirm arrangements for Furloughing apprentices. (see Furlough Declaration template in the Additional Resources section)



# Current Live Queries

## **Funding Flow e.g.**

- Why can't the training element of the 20% payment held back for EPA be released.. still ongoing.....

## **EPA**

- Can an apprentice transfer to a new employer after the gateway ?

## **Nursing and wider :**

- What the 'new flexibilities' actually mean
- Application of this flexibility for midwives and other professions

## **Senior Leader Apprenticeship**

- What is the likely funding band review outcome and how can we plan for this

# Senior Leader – FE WEEK



**MBA APPRENTICESHIP TO LIVE ON DESPITE NEW ATTEMPT TO AXE**

Universities are still planning to offer the MBA in the level 7 senior leader apprenticeship, despite the qualification being axed from...

**EXCLUSIVE** 10.00 Apr. 24th, 2020 0

And ...

MoJ ploughs ahead with £2m tender for MBA apprentices...

# FUTURE TOPICS

- Chartered Surveyor - RICS panels as only option for EPA has there been any word on what they are doing?
- Furlough scenarios how is this progressing with the ESFA?
- The future of Degree Apprenticeships and funding
- The practicalities of what the recent announcements over EPA mean - next steps to take forward and trying to manage expectations whilst waiting. Also - the SLMDA consultation, finishing off our response early next week.
- I think the funding bands and mandated quals stuff is really critical. We are already operating in a challenging recruitment environment in which this will have impact.
- In terms of Senior Leader, I know CMI seem to be communicating it will impact on September starts - confirmation on when implementation commences will be great.
- The Ofsted and Audit updates

# NURSING

- Forum provisionally 1 May 2.00pm [REGISTER HERE](#)
- Attendees :
- NOCN, Innovate, NCFE
- IfATE, ESFA, HEE,
- ESFA Guidance is the last element – this has been promised for several weeks
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April HEE Meeting: EPA Steering Group
- Slides downloadable from your Dashboard and the [Website News Item](#)
  - [NOCN Overview](#) of the proposed process
  - [HEE Update](#)
  - Recording to follow TBC

# NOCN SLIDE : EPA - DRAFT COVID-19 Delivery\*

- Foundation degree award – from the HEI
- Early registering with the NMC for the Nursing Pin Number
- Apprentice can enter service
- Gateway evidence including the both of the above sent to EPAO, (with English and Maths)
- Apprentice data individually is sent to EPAO from the HEI's
- EPAOs check gateway evidence is correct and EPAOs confirms with HEI's this has been accepted
- Apprentice is updated via the provider's ILR
- EPAOs claims apprenticeship completion as a **PASS** using the data we will have received at gateway
- EPAOs confirms the claim as usual via PDF result slip to the HEIs – to close the ILR as achieved
- ESFA process the cert claim as usual
- EPAO keep record all "COVID-19" claims for audit.
- **Payment for the above process, is currently in discussion with the ESFA and EPAOs have submitted proposals.**

**\*Currently checking with the EQAP  
(Ofqual) - 170420**

# Questions

- We asked about the indications that EPAOs are not reducing their fees to reflect changes in the EPA - ESFA confirmed free reductions expected
- We asked about the restriction to a PASS only award - the apprentice has to appeal and ask to retake
- We asked about the duration – and that we want a confirmed timeline for not only the July cohorts but on into end 2020 or even later - the need for a decision was acknowledged but HEE confirmed the need currently to continue to prepare apprentices for a full EPA

*now what!—*

**CORVID-19 WEB FORUM**

**Friday 24 April 2020**

**UPDATED 'This Week' SECTION**

**view the 25 minute extra webcast [here](#)**

**Rebecca Rhodes, UVAC**

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# This Week – UPDATED

1. Latest ESFA coronavirus response guidance :
2. ESFA UPDATE : **nothing on apprenticeships**
3. OfQUAL Functional Skills Flexibilities: Summer 2020 Advice for Vocational, Technical & Other Qualifications
4. IfATE EPA Update 5 – Consultation on a simplified and strengthened EQA system. The consultation was due to close today, **but has been extended to 21 May.**
5. IfATE Corvid-19 FAQ – **published 24<sup>th</sup> April** - see also EPA Update 5
6. IfATE Corvid-19 Response – **not updated**

The ESFA published updated Guidance late on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> after the Forum



# OfQUAL – Functional & Vocational Skills Flexibilities

***Functional skills legacy qualifications have been extended to December 2020 AND qualifications in scope may now have results calculated:*** announced on 24<sup>th</sup> April - see the [OFQUAL Summer 2020 Advice for Vocational, Technical & Other Qualifications](#) Key extracts are below :

## **Principles**

*It [ .....] also includes Functional Skills qualifications which are taken by a wide range of learners, including apprentices, and play an important role in supporting progression to both further study and to and through employment. We consider that, as far as possible, such qualifications should be treated in the same way as GCSEs, AS and A levels, with learners receiving a calculated result.*

## **Functional skills**

*'It is government policy that learners due to take assessments for Functional Skills qualifications before the end of the summer, receive a calculated result rather than an adapted or postponed assessment, because of their importance for progression. Under our proposals, awarding organisations will be required to take all reasonable steps to provide learners taking these qualifications with a calculated result.'*

## **Apprenticeships**

*'Arrangements for end-point assessments (EPAs) are not covered by the direction or the extraordinary regulatory framework. The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education has set out guidance outlining what flexibility there may be in adapting assessments where the rescheduling or delay of an EPA would cause hardship to the apprentice, and has confirmed that approaches to calculate results cannot be used with EPAs.*

*Apprentices taking other vocational and technical qualifications as part of their apprenticeships may find their results are calculated or assessments are adapted, as we propose they will be for learners taking these qualifications outside of apprenticeships. What is the position for learners studying legacy Functional Skills qualifications? The regulation end date for legacy Functional Skills qualifications will be extended to the 31 December 2020 to allow learners who are currently on these qualifications, but who are yet to certificate, an opportunity to complete their qualification'.*

# IfATE/ESFA EPA Update 5

[View this email in your browser](#)



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency



Institute for Apprenticeships  
& Technical Education

EPA Update

ISSUE 5

Hello,

At this challenging time for all of us, it is often difficult to stay positive and focused and so with that in mind we continue to be grateful for your ongoing support and engagement. We continue to use the EPA cancellation and postponement data that you are sharing with us to monitor how things are developing and to support the COVID-19 response team in their discussions with Ministers; so please do keep sending us this information.

This week's update includes:

- COVID-19 Guidance - A reminder of the links to the **updated** guidance from ESFA and the Institute.
- New EPA Flexibilities.
- The Institute's COVID-19 FAQ – A link to a useful Q&A document which has been published by the Institute following requests from you relating to COVID-19 guidance
- EQA Consultation on a simplified EQA system - deadline extension to 21 May 2020
- Actions we need you to take and links to relevant information

As always we are keen to support you where we can, so we hope that you will continue to communicate with us regarding any changes you think we may need to be aware of and any assistance we can offer.

Regards

# IfATE Covid-19 FAQ



## COVID-19 FAQ

Covid-19- Information  
regarding apprenticeships

### In this section

Hide menu

1. Who to contact
2. Consultations and reviews
3. End point assessment (EPA)
4. EQA providers
5. Effect on Apprentices
6. Training

Covid-19 FAQ [Updated 24 April 2020]

# ESFA Guidance Updated 24 April

Updated Pack : 240420

12 New Questions in V: 240420

- The updated pack has changed the question numbering and new questions are not highlighted ...
- Our slides cover NEW questions

## In Summary /Key Themes:

- Audits - they *may* take place
- Alternatives for wet signatures during Covid-19
- Functional Skills waiver for L2

## Highlighted :

- **For Apprentices**
- **For Employers**
- **For Providers & EPAOs**

## Furloughed Apprentices

**17, 19**

## Recruiting New Apprentices

**23, 24, 25**

## End-point Assessment

**34, 35, 40**

## Functional Skills

**44-47**

# ESFA Latest FAQ

## Furloughed Apprentices

**17. Why should I continue my learning if I can't attend my place of work?**

**19. As an employer how will I know if I need to top up an employee's wages if they are furloughed but continuing with their apprenticeship?**

## Recruiting New Apprentices

**23. Can an employer recruit a new member of staff into the business as an apprentice?**

*Yes - It is important to note that an employer can only claim for furloughed employees that were on the PAYE payroll on or before 19 March 2020.*

**24. Can an existing member of staff start an apprenticeship whilst they are furloughed?**

- *Yes, if eligible and the provider should consider how they would assure the ESFA of the identity and eligibility of the individual and how they would carry out the initial assessment*

# ESFA Latest FAQ

- **25. Are the evidence arrangements around obtaining learner signatures being relaxed during COVID-19?** [in summary – see full text]
- signatures to be retained are: the apprenticeship agreement, the commitment statement, external audit reports for subcontractors, evidence linking to additional payments such as additional learning support and the care leavers bursary, contracts for services, agreements that an apprentice has passed all gateway requirements
- If you use digital/electronic signature process, continue in accordance with the respective funding rules.
- Where you don't have digital processes under normal circumstances, during the COVID-19 ONLY; provider flexibilities are as follows:
- **For the purpose of audit evidence, we expect a record of acknowledgement or adoption of a genuine electronic message or document.**
- Acceptable alternative evidence includes:
  - an email from the learner and/or employer's email address with details of the confirmation and their typed name at the end of the message
  - a typed name on an electronic form or document emailed from the learner and/or employer
  - a signed scanned document attached to an email from the learner and/or employer
  - photo taken on a camera/digital medium of the signed document attached to an email from the learner and/or employer
- **Following the period of COVID-19 restrictions, providers using the above alternative evidence must resume their usual process for obtaining wet signatures on relevant documentation. Providers must ensure that all alternative evidence replacing wet signatures received during the COVID-19 restrictions is genuine and irrefutable, and the evidence is retained for audit purposes.**

# ESFA Latest FAQ

## End-point Assessment

**34. What will happen if I am not well enough to take my end-point assessment?**

**35. I have been furloughed, can I still take my end-point assessment?**

**40. How are the ESFA monitoring the number of cancelled and postponed end-point assessments?**

EPAOs are an important element to delivering quality apprenticeships. In order to support them, and the wider market, to meet the future demand, we have asked end-point organisations to complete a weekly return to the ESFA recording all COVID-19 related EPA cancellations.

We sent each organisation on the register of end-point assessment organisations a copy of the template return, which should be sent back to the apprenticeship assessment mailbox. This information will help us to understand and manage the post COVID-19 pipeline of apprenticeship assessments.

# ESFA Latest FAQ

## Functional Skills

**[NB for L2 Apprentices only, this is suspended to July 2020 for now]**

- 44. What evidence do I need to provide to show the apprentice did not take the level 2 English and/or maths functional skills test before entering them for EPA?**
- 45. Will there be a requirement to go back and take the level 2 functional skills test after the apprenticeship has been achieved?**
- 46. What does this mean for the arrangement for gateway prior to end-point assessment?**



# ESFA Latest FAQ

## Functional Skills - for L3 Apprentices and above

### 47. What about the level 2 English and maths exit requirements for level 3 and higher apprenticeships?

This requirement applies to intermediate (level 2) apprentices only. Apprentices undertaking a level 3 or higher apprenticeship are still required to hold or achieve an approved level 2 English and maths qualification before they can successfully complete their apprenticeship.

# Resources from Today's Session

- HEE Nursing Associate Update
- NOCN Nursing Associate EPA Overview
- ESFA/IfATE EPA Update 5
- IfATE Corvid-19 FAQ
- EPA Update 5
- OfQUAL Summer 2020 Advice for Vocational, Technical & Other Qualifications

# FUTURE FOCUS TEMPERATURE CHECK

# Temperature Check

Complete the survey before the forum via the circulated link: This weeks is HERE or use URL below

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/UVAC-TEMPCHECK>

We are asking for immediate priorities &  
Short-medium Priorities to focus UVAC and Forum advice  
and assistance



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[Covid-19 FAQ \[Updated 24 April 2020\]](#)



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# Temperature Check

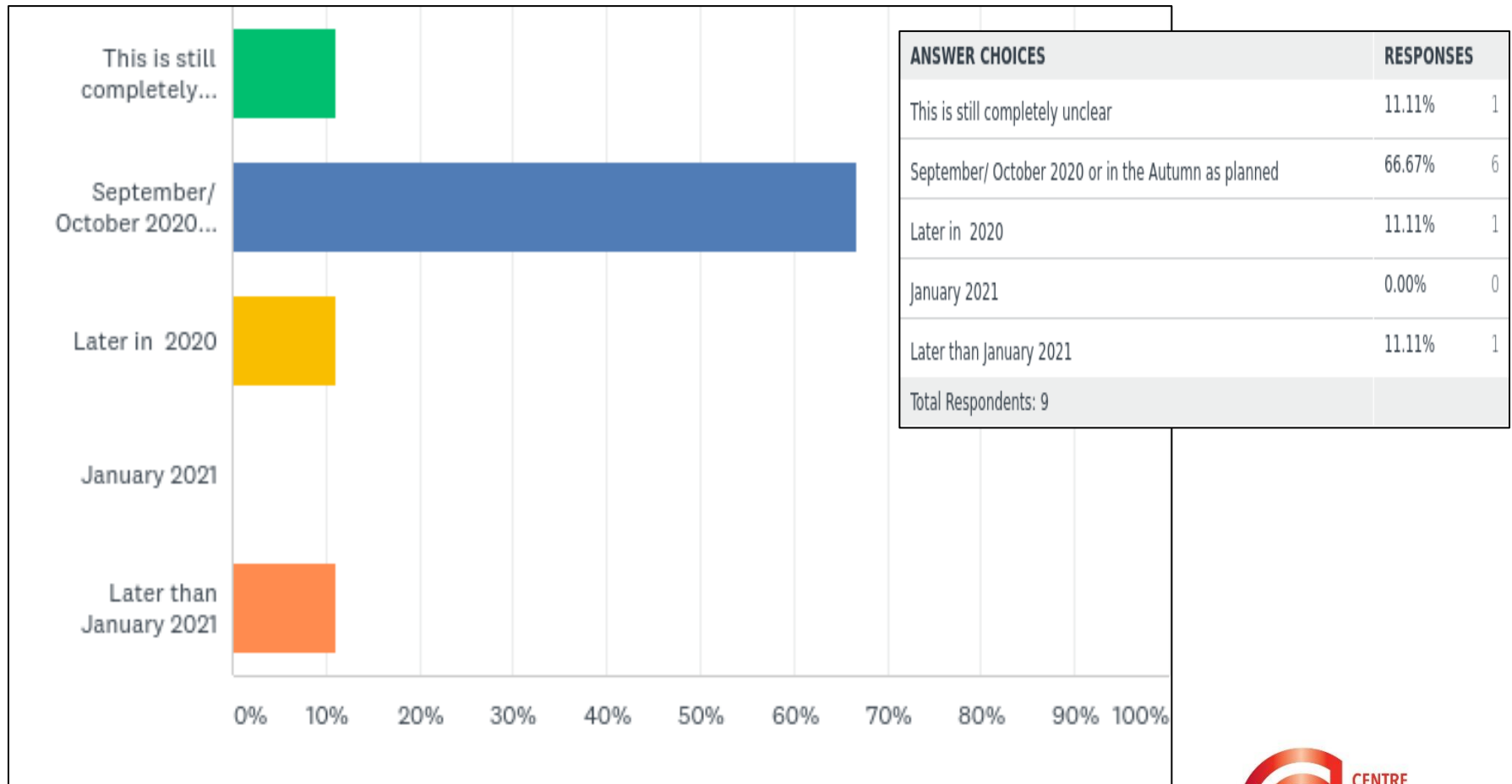
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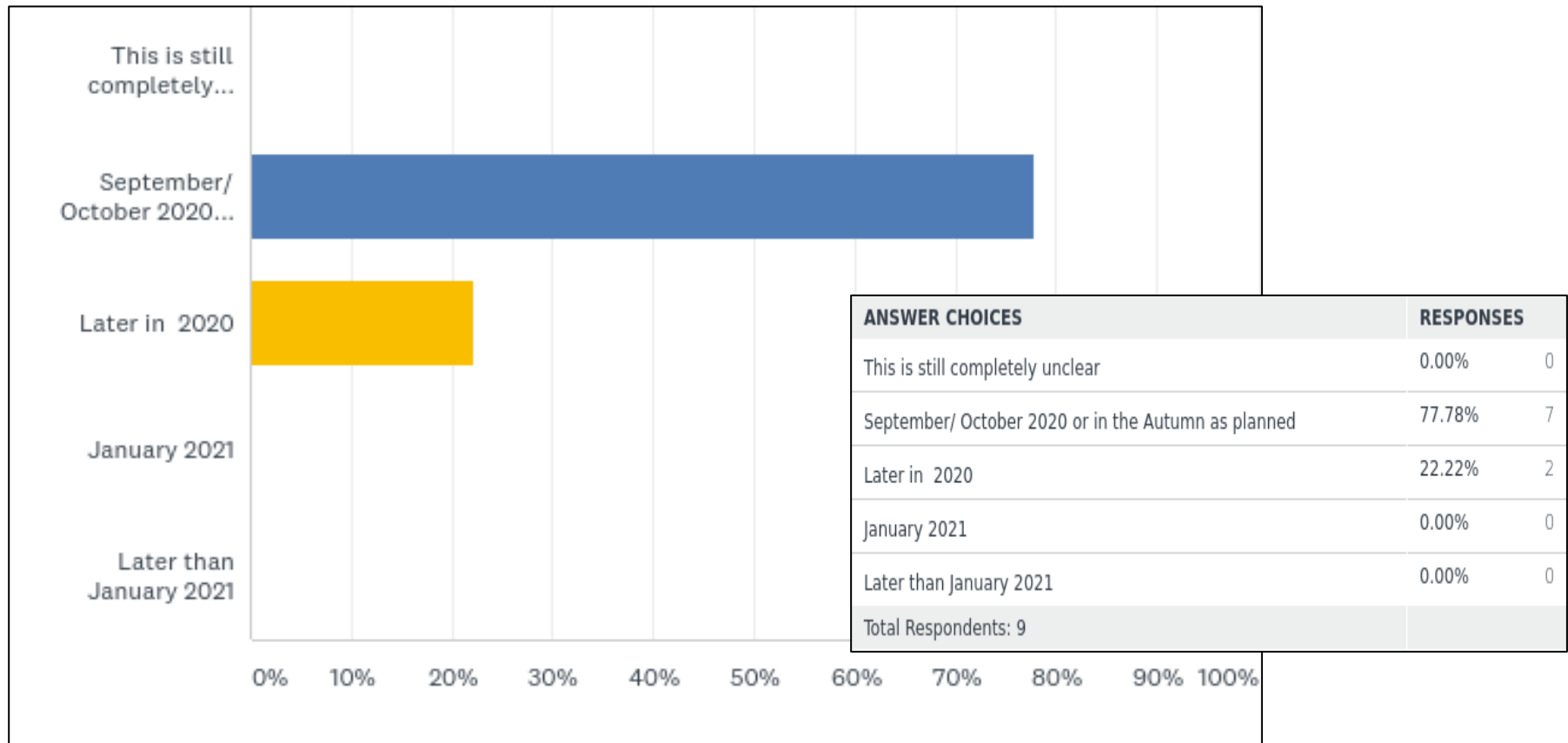
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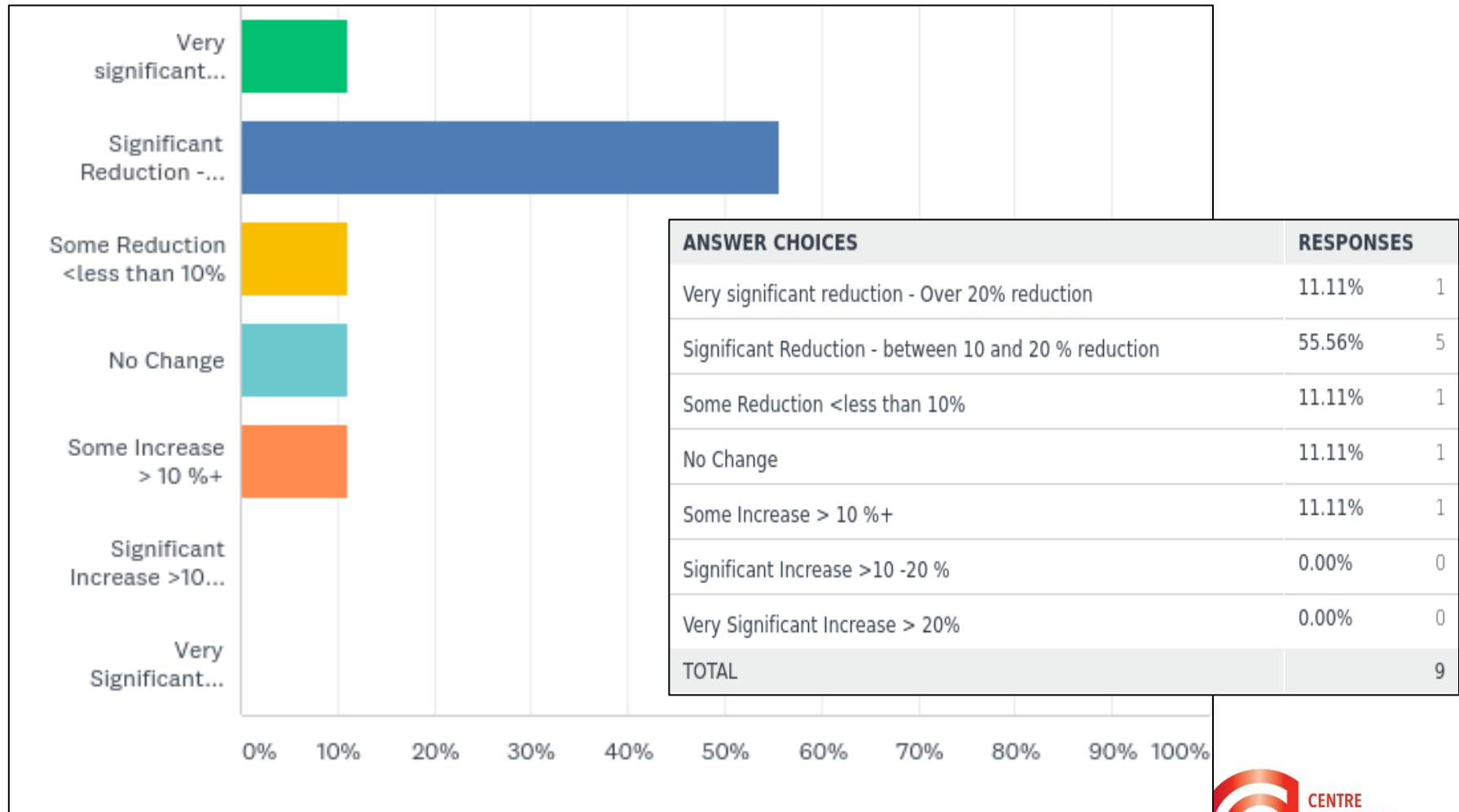
# Q3: When are you currently anticipating/planning your first NEW STARTS for the 2020 / 2021 cohort

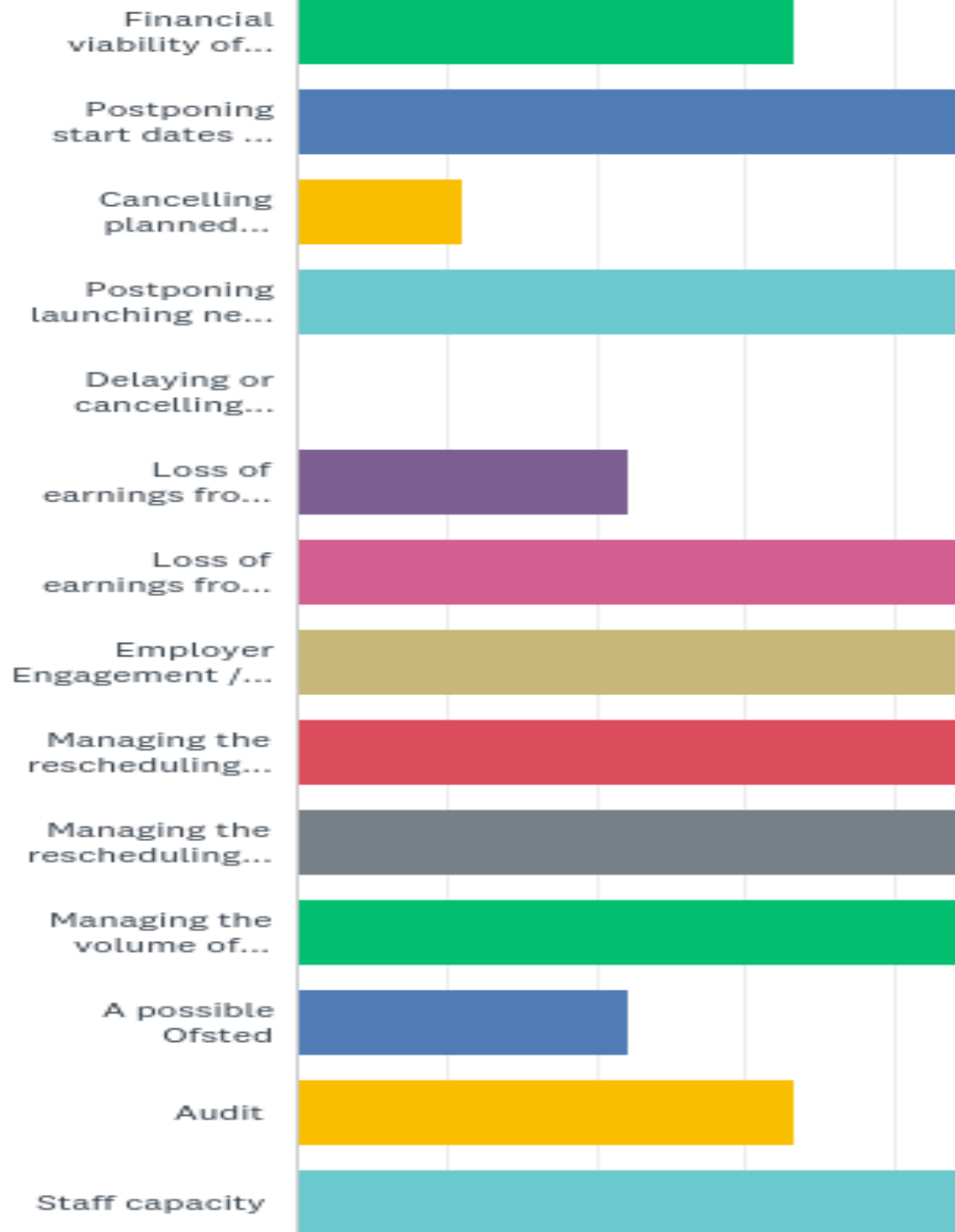


# Q4: When are you currently anticipating/planning your first delivery for RETURNING APPRENTICES for the 2020 / 2021 year



# Q5: What impact on your starts volumes for the 2020/2021 Academic year are you anticipating?





Q8: What are the main short or medium term challenges that you anticipate will MOST affect the recovery of your Apprenticeship Programmes ?

# Q8: What are the main short or medium term challenges that you anticipate will MOST affect recovery?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE
Financial viability of current or future programmes	33.33%
Postponing start dates for planned programmes	44.44%
Cancelling planned programmes	11.11%
Postponing launching new programmes	44.44%
Delaying or cancelling recruitment for staff - academic	0.00%
Loss of earnings from abandoned EPAs	22.22%
Loss of earnings from non returning apprentices	55.56%
Employer Engagement / Apprentice Recruitment	55.56%
Managing the rescheduling of returning Apprentices at different points in their learning	77.78%
Managing the rescheduling of exams and / or EPA	44.44%
Managing the volume of documentation to be created, updated or issued	66.67%
A possible Ofsted	22.22%
Audit	33.33%
Staff capacity	44.44%

# FUTURE FOCUS SURVEY

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## Q6 What support, action or activity by any part of government or any other organisation (s) would make most difference to you this / next week?

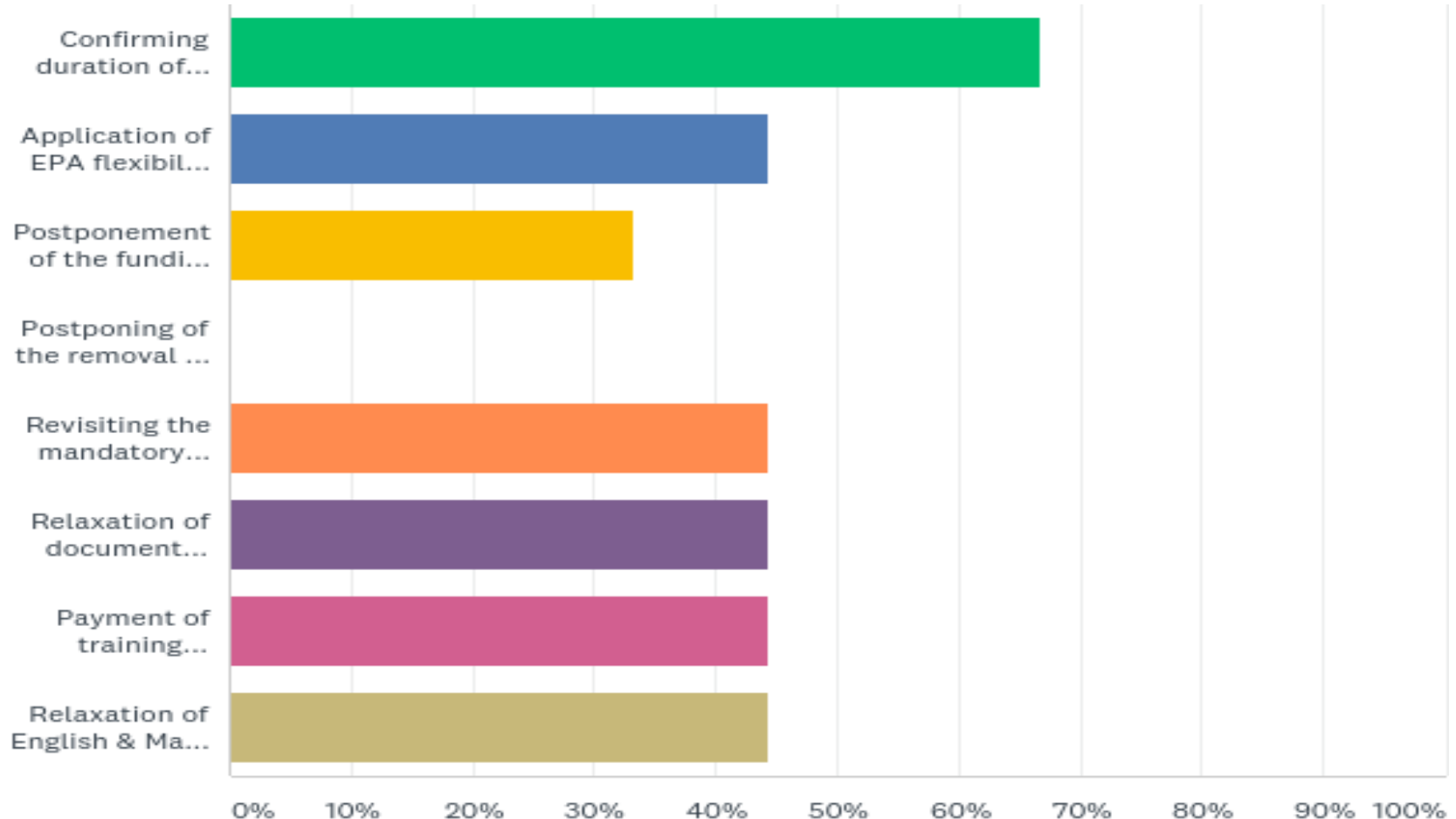
#	RESPONSES
1	How long with EPA flexibilities last until?
2	Timely clarity from the ESFA on 20/21 funding rule changes and ILR development so that we can start working on these now! Or even better notification that there won't be any changes. Clarity regarding apprenticeship pricing, particularly as all courses being delivered online now. Clarity regarding Nursing EPA!
3	Clarity from government of any support for universities
4	Dropping any funding band and standard reviews, more uncertainty is very unhelpful
5	Clarity of fees for EPA to EPAO. Ofsted-what will they be demanding/expecting from HEI's when this situation is over in regard to the learners experience during Covid 19.

# Q7 How can UVAC Help you this week?

#	RESPONSES
1	Up to date (daily) updates on latest developments.
2	Support with information regarding reviews, nursing EPAO issues
3	Share a HE response to funding band consultation
4	Keep doing what you are doing. It is great to have these weekly meetings and be able to share and discuss current situation



## Q9: Which policies flexibilities do you feel would make the MOST positive difference to your recovery?



# Q9: Which policies flexibilities do you feel would make the MOST positive difference to your recovery?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Confirming duration of agreed EPA flexibility options into 2021	66.67%	6
Application of EPA flexibility options to other apprenticeships	44.44%	4
Postponement of the funding cap review outcomes	33.33%	3
Postponing of the removal of Frameworks	0.00%	0
Revisiting the mandatory qualifications decision or postponing implementation	44.44%	4
Relaxation of document compliance requirements to allow collection after start dates	44.44%	4
Payment of training elements of the final EPA 20% payment at gateway	44.44%	4
Relaxation of English & Maths requirements	44.44%	4

## Q. 10 What other policy or operational flexibilities would help your recovery ?

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As mentioned above - postponing Funding Rules changes and ILR development.

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No Ofsted inspections for at least year post Covid 19 or ESFA audit. I feel that the normal compliance requirements are being met but adjustments are going to be required to update SED/QIP etc while re-establishing learning and support cohorts of nursing/nursing associates back onto programmes. Employers will need to re-establish relationships with Uni particularly when they have requested a blanket pause in learning for all learners for at least six months.

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ESFA flexibilities regarding QAR for subsequent years for QARs that are published must also be taken into account. Audits and inspection not only for 2021 must be contextualised by OfS, Ofsted and ESFA as COVID will have a knock-on effect in years to come and subsequent completions

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EQA Consultation on a simplified EQA system - deadline extension to 21 May 2020

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‘The sector needs certainty, funding band reviews are causing Universities to question their apprenticeship involvement’

# POLICY UPDATE

Adrian Anderson

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# What is in the FAQ this week ...



**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES** – see also **CORE RESOURCES** on the back page



**Slides (Webcast link is in the Resources slide)**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April

[Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April](#)

[Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April](#)

[Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April](#)

**Templates**

[Furlough Declaration Template](#)

**Other (listed in most recently added first)**

[HEE Nursing Associate Update](#)

[NOCN Nursing Associate EPA Overview](#)

[UVAC Senior Leader Position Statement](#)

[UVAC Letter to the IfATE CEO](#)

[HASO Guidance on Nursing EPA Flexibilities](#)

[Learner Satisfaction Survey Cancellation Letter](#)

[UVAC Position Statement – Senior Leader Consultation](#)

[Qualification Achievement Rate Announcement](#)

[Treasury Advice on Criteria for Furlough](#)

[Updated IFATE advice on Nursing Apprenticeships](#)

[OFQUAL Announcement on English & maths](#)

[OFQUAL Summer 2020 Advice for Vocational, Technical & Other Qualifications](#)

[QAA Covid-19 Thematic Guidance](#)



**QUICK POLL RESULTS**

# Resources from Today's Session

- HEE Nursing Associate Update
- NOCN Nursing Associate EPA Overview
- ESFA Coronavirus FAQs
- IfATE Corvid-19 FAQ
- ESFA/IfATE EPA Update 5
- OfQUAL Summer 2020 Advice for Vocational, Technical & Other Qualifications

# Further Information



- Listen to the 24 April MAIN Forum Webcast: [HERE](#)
- Listen to the 24 April UPDATED ESFA FAQ Webcast: [HERE](#)
- **NEXT WEEKS FORUMS:**
- May 1<sup>st</sup> Forum 12.00 Register [HERE](#)
- Nursing Associate Forum 2pm Register [HERE](#)



- Queries: email me [r.rhodes@Bolton.ac.uk](mailto:r.rhodes@Bolton.ac.uk) or post
- [questions on the COVID-19 Forum Page](#)



- [ESFA COVID Response for apprenticeships](#)
- [IFATE Response for end-point assessment : enquiries.ifa@education.gov.uk](#)  
(title in the subject box: EPA\_Covid 19 plus your org name)
- DfE coronavirus helpline – Telephone 0800 046 8687