

now what!—

CORVID-19 WEB FORUM

Friday 1 May 2020

Adrian Anderson, UVAC

Mandy Crawford-Lee

Rebecca Rhodes, UVAC

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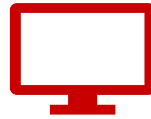
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Webforum Protocol



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**



Covid-19 Forum Thurs May 7 12.00pm Register **HERE**
Nursing Associate Forum
Wed 6th May 10.00 am-11.30 am
Register **HERE**



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

TO NOTE :
The Centre For Degree
Apprenticeships pages no
longer require a
login – they are fully
accessible

EVENT & CDA UPDATE

Mandy Crawford-Lee

Previously


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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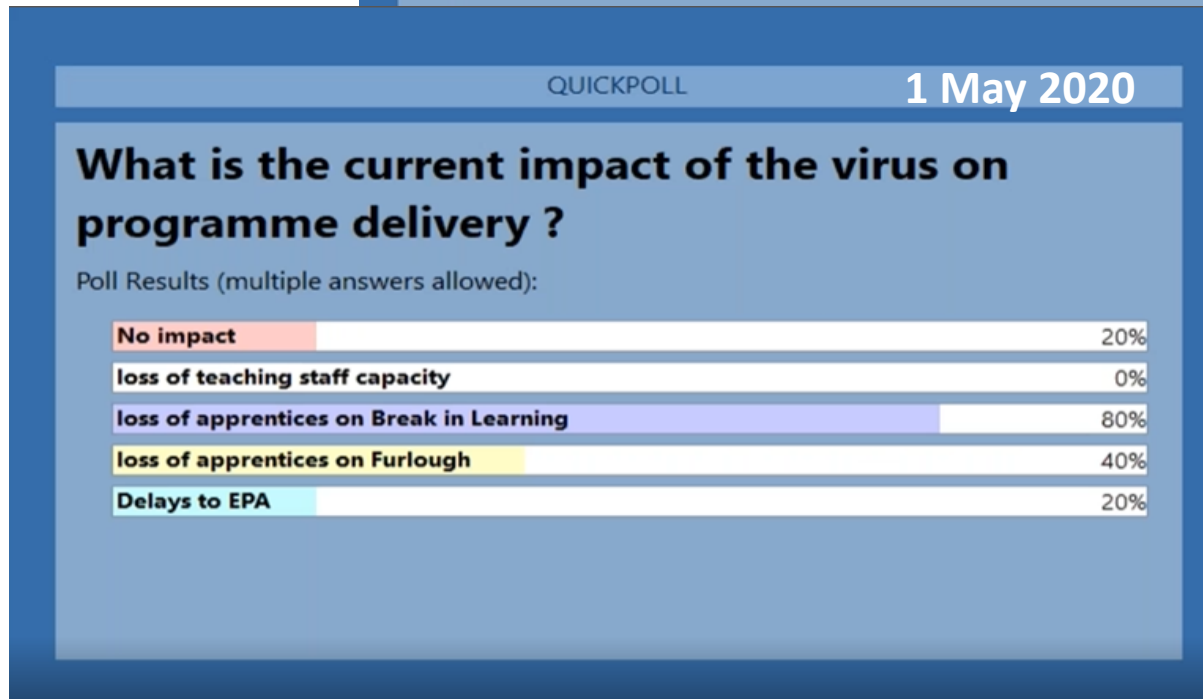
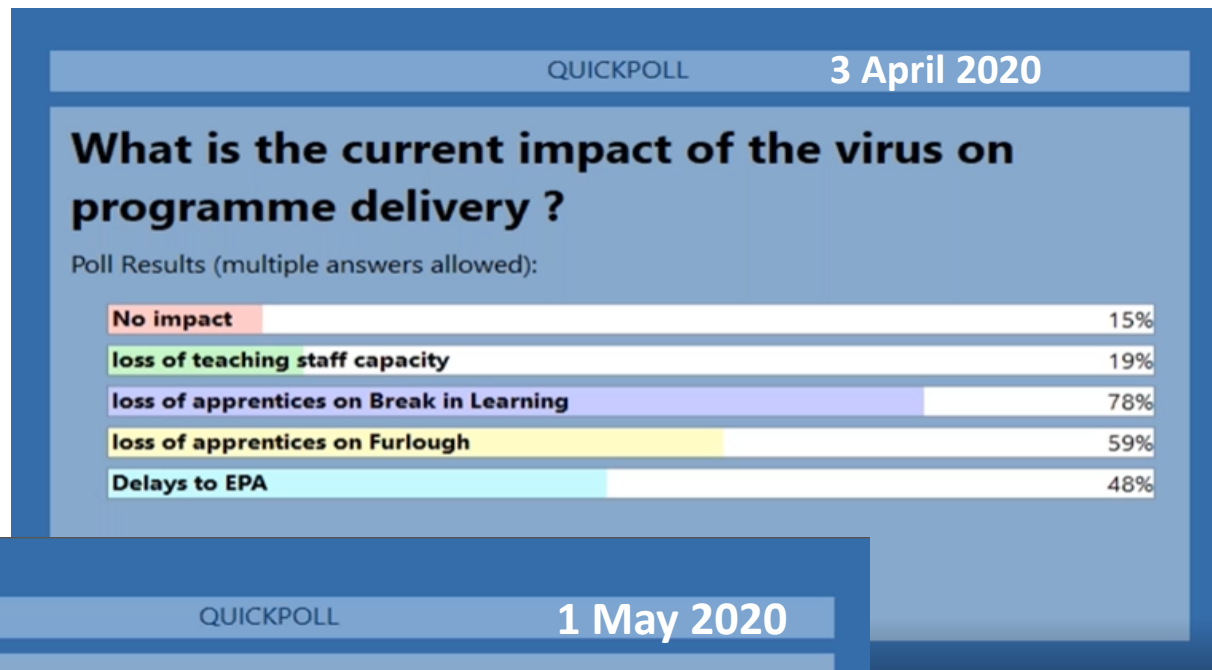
 CENTRE
FOR DEGREE
APPRENTICESHIPS



POLL

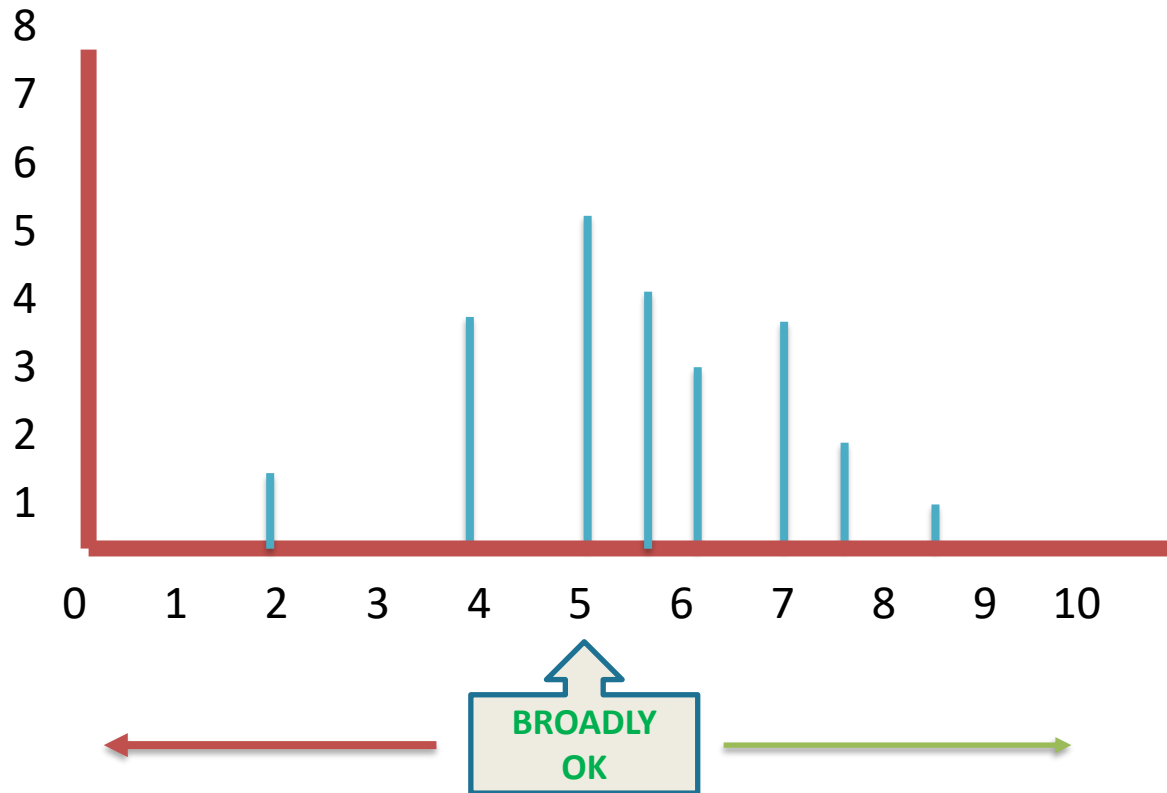
Is the Impact of the virus on your
Apprenticeship Delivery changing?

Poll 1 -

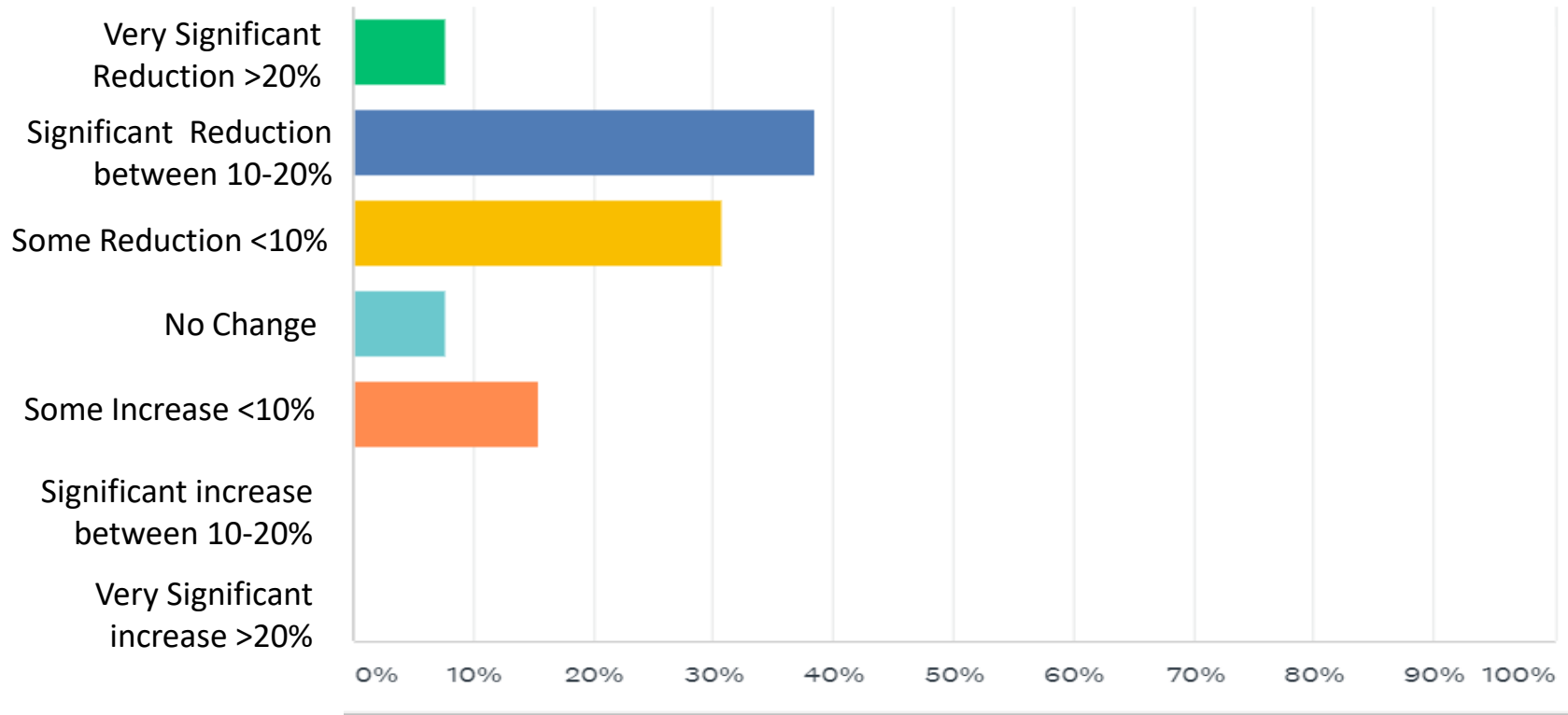


Temperature Check Survey Results

– How are you feeling today ?



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





This Week

1. Latest ESFA coronavirus response guidance : **24.04**
2. ESFA UPDATE: **29.4**
3. IfATE list of Standards with temporary discretions or flexibilities **28.04**
4. IfATE Senior Leader Timeline for Implementation **now November earliest**
5. IfATE Corvid-19 FAQ – **24.04** - see also EPA Update 6
6. IfATE Corvid-19 Response – **not updated**
7. IfATE Apprentice Survey - ends 29th May
8. DfE Statistics – March 2020 confirm beginnings of the reduction in starts

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..... 

Starts

- DfE Stats confirm reduction in starts

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

- Latest confirmation of timelines

What we have raised with ESFA this week

Timelines for flexibilities

Our recommendation is that all flexibilities are confirmed now at least until 1 September or even 1 December and the date agreed now in July 2020, to extend this if the future is not clear. We need certainty when decisions are going to be made and in the absence of any certainty in this environment they simply need to be extended.

The status of Apprentices needing to change employer after they've passed the gateway

Can ESFA please put this guidance out quickly - we have employers literally waiting for a response.

Wet signatures

Could ESFA please clarify:

1. With Treasury and to employers access to work-based systems whilst undertaking training is completely acceptable, and also
2. Amend the wet signature guidance issued last week accept emails from whatever email is agreed with the apprentice and line manager during the time whilst they can't access their work email.

Break in learning

We would like the ESFA to reduce the emphasis on breaking learning and replace this with 'talking to their training provider about the arrangements for continuing learning whilst they are on furlough'

Response to queries - an escalation process

Could ESFA offer an escalation process ?

ESFA Guidance / FAQ 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

Senior Leader Apprenticeship

‘You continue with the current standard and funding band until the revised version is published and approved for delivery’

	Phase	Plan Date
5	Trailblazer to analyse consultation responses with Institute support	30 April – 4 May
6	Consult IFATE Peer Reviewer and Worldskills on the draft occupational standard	11-15 May
7	Remote intensive workshop to review the consultation feedback and revise the occupational standard	05-May
8	Finalise occupational standard	6-19 May
9	Final checks of standard and submission	19-20 May
10	Remote intensive workshop to revise the End-Point Assessment plan so that it is policy compliant and aligns with the revised standard	1-5 June
11	Trailblazer to request costings from training providers and an end-point assessment organisation to inform IFATE’s funding band recommendation	10-Jun
12	Outcome of occupational standard approval process	6 – 10 July
13	Finalise EPA plan and revisit standard to check for any knock-on effects on KSBs to enable grading descriptors	6-17 July
14	Draft EPA reviewed by Education Advisor	20-24 July
15	Finalisation of EPA plan and costings	27 July – 23 August
16	Final checks of EPA plan and costings	26 August – 16 September
17	Outcome of EPA plan approval process	2 – 6 October
18	Addressing of any EPA plan conditions and ministerial approval of funding band	October - November
19	Apprenticeship standard approved for delivery	November - December*

*Consideration will need to be given as to whether a notice period needs to be given between its approval and final implementation.

Nursing Associate Apprenticeship

- **Forum 6 May 10.00am [REGISTER HERE](#)**
- Attendees :
- NOCN, Innovate, NCFE
- IfATE, ESFA, HEE,
- **ESFA Guidance expected today or Monday**
- Monday 20th 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
- HoSA - policy



IfATE Apprenticeship Survey

- **Survey ends 29 May - 10 -15 minutes**
https://www.cognitoforms.com/InstituteForApprenticeships1/apprenticeshippanel_survey
- Apprentice Panel : ‘Their first important task is to gather feedback from apprentices about the quality of training they are receiving and end point assessment’.
- ‘What you tell us is incredibly valuable to help us understand apprentices’ views on the standards and end-point assessment plans approved by the Institute. It will not be possible to identify any organisation or individual from the responses given’
- **Apprenticeship Survey – 6 sections (click [HERE](#) for a printable version)**
 - Introductory Information
 - The partnership between apprentice, employer and training provider
 - The occupation and your job
 - Training
 - End-point assessment
 - Other

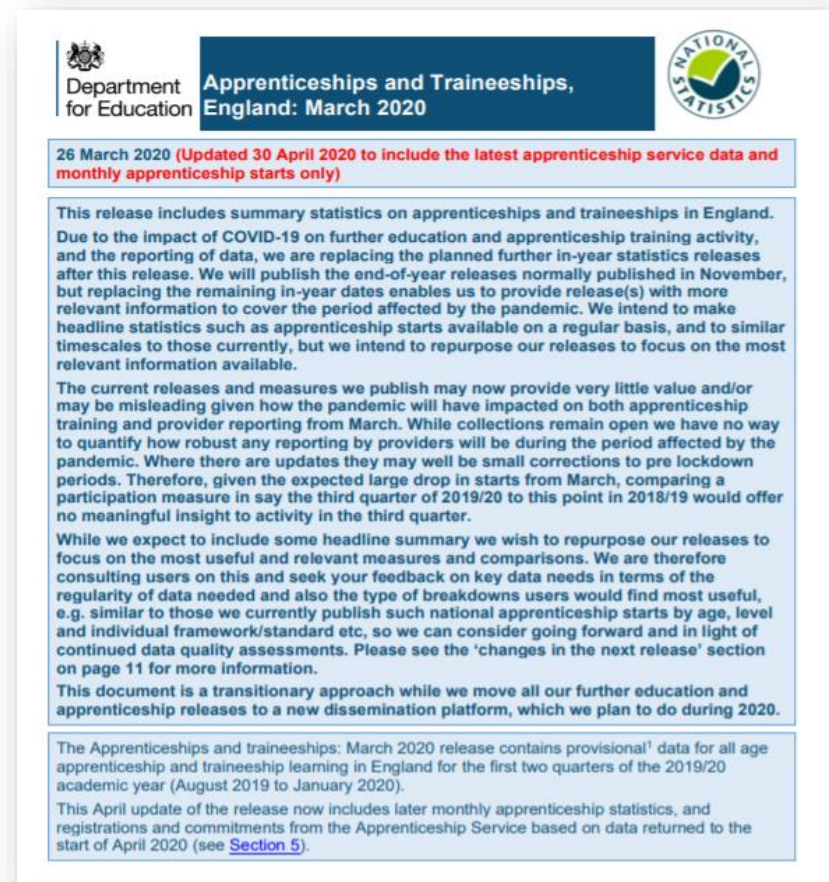
PANEL MEMBERS TRAINED BY A UNIVERSITY

- **ANGELA HOGG:** Manchester Met - Digital Technology Solutions
- **KAT PARICOS:** Nottingham Trent University -Food Industry Technical
- **NIKKI GREAVES:** KENT - Laboratory scientist
- **LOUIS CURTIS:** DERBY - Mineral Products Technology

Apprenticeship Starts Data - March 2020

- Level 6 and 7 starts
 - increased by 36.3 per cent since 2018/19
 - nearly five times higher than in 2017/18.
 - Accounted for almost 1:10 of starts recorded so far in 2019/20,
- At all levels, in the first two quarters of 2018/19 : a decrease of 7.3 % to 198,600 from 214,200
- 29.1 % of public sector starts are higher apprenticeships compared to 15.9 % elsewhere..
- 24,100 Apprenticeship Service accounts of which 2,400 were for non-levy holders
- 3,450 non levy reservations with 352 providers including 220 deleted and 140 expired

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Department for Education Apprenticeships and Traineeships, England: March 2020

26 March 2020 (Updated 30 April 2020 to include the latest apprenticeship service data and monthly apprenticeship starts only)

This release includes summary statistics on apprenticeships and traineeships in England. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on further education and apprenticeship training activity, and the reporting of data, we are replacing the planned further in-year statistics releases after this release. We will publish the end-of-year releases normally published in November, but replacing the remaining in-year dates enables us to provide release(s) with more relevant information to cover the period affected by the pandemic. We intend to make headline statistics such as apprenticeship starts available on a regular basis, and to similar timescales to those currently, but we intend to repurpose our releases to focus on the most relevant information available.

The current releases and measures we publish may now provide very little value and/or may be misleading given how the pandemic will have impacted on both apprenticeship training and provider reporting from March. While collections remain open we have no way to quantify how robust any reporting by providers will be during the period affected by the pandemic. Where there are updates they may well be small corrections to pre lockdown periods. Therefore, given the expected large drop in starts from March, comparing a participation measure in say the third quarter of 2019/20 to this point in 2018/19 would offer no meaningful insight to activity in the third quarter.

While we expect to include some headline summary we wish to repurpose our releases to focus on the most useful and relevant measures and comparisons. We are therefore consulting users on this and seek your feedback on key data needs in terms of the regularity of data needed and also the type of breakdowns users would find most useful, e.g. similar to those we currently publish such as national apprenticeship starts by age, level and individual framework/standard etc, so we can consider going forward and in light of continued data quality assessments. Please see the 'changes in the next release' section on page 11 for more information.

This document is a transitional approach while we move all our further education and apprenticeship releases to a new dissemination platform, which we plan to do during 2020.

The Apprenticeships and traineeships: March 2020 release contains provisional¹ data for all age apprenticeship and traineeship learning in England for the first two quarters of the 2019/20 academic year (August 2019 to January 2020).

This April update of the release now includes later monthly apprenticeship statistics, and registrations and commitments from the Apprenticeship Service based on data returned to the start of April 2020 (see [Section 5](#)).

This document is a transitional approach to a new dissemination platform during 2020 and we are consulting on what statistics people want

ESFA Update 29 April

Minimum standards for all-age apprenticeships 2018 to 2019

- ESFA action letters are due next week to providers who did not meet the all-age apprenticeship minimum standard for 2018 to 2019.
This is ESFA's [published policy on minimum standards](#) based on the [National achievement rates tables for 2018 to 2019](#).
- 'We will be taking positive action to challenge this situation. Our position on minimum standards is to continue to be rigorous in driving up the quality of apprenticeship delivery'.
- **ESFA apprenticeship agreement for training providers - amendment**
- Issuing variations from June to vary the level of professional indemnity insurance from £10m to £5m.
- **Review of apprenticeships carry-in allocations for the 2019 to 2020 funding year**
 - contract variations will be issued shortly to providers who are in scope for an increase based on R08 data return (March data submitted during April) if you delivered more than your August 2019 to March 2020 contract value or 66.67% of your full year allocation

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

FUTURE FOCUS TEMPERATURE CHECK

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Temperature Check – Next Survey in two weeks

- **NEW LINK will be published Wednesday 13 May**
 1. Reduction in starts - known volumes
 2. Sector impact
 3. Immediate priorities
 4. Policy flex & change

Summary at the Forum on 15 May

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?

Guidance

- ILR guidance for pausing and completing apprentices prior to EPA/Gateway.
- Furlough Guidance and repositioning of what Furlough means for apprenticeships
- EPAO flexibility payments.
- Duration of flexibilities esp EPA
- 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.
- Apprenticeship pricing, particularly as all courses being delivered online now.
- Clarity of fees for EPA to EPAO
- How performance data will be used by ESFA and Ofsted

**‘Clear direction to employers that furloughed apprentices are expected to continue their learning and that breaks-in-learning should be by exception
Total clarity from HMRC and ESFA that furloughed learners are permitted to access company email and systems while learning on furlough.**

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?

Policy positions – ESFA, DfE, IfATE, Ofsted

- Dropping any funding band and standard reviews, more uncertainty is very unhelpful
- Financial support if breaks-in-learning grow
- Clarity from government of any support for universities
- Publishing plans for the stopping of lockdown
- e.g. timescales, plan of which businesses will be allowed to restart when, what rules may be implemented during the return to normal.
- Ofsted-what will they be demanding/expecting from HEI's when this situation is over in regard to the learners experience during Covid 19.

It feels a bit like we are looking into a crystal ball and trying to make decisions that could lead to work that then all has to change which is hard

Online flexibilities from EPAOs

- Functional Skills delivery and exams - why City and Guilds cant offer the same for Functional Skills.

Q7 How can UVAC Help you this week?

- Gathering and sharing information about best practice across universities in dealing with the lock down
- Clarity on functional skills - consultation is coming, UVAC guidance on the risks and weaknesses in the Ofqual proposal would be welcome
- Push for more detailed guidance on furloughing
- UVAC comment on EPA arrangements in popular L6/7 standards
- Support with information regarding reviews, nursing EPAO issues

POLICY UPDATE

Adrian Anderson

Resources from Today's Session

1. ESFA coronavirus response guidance **24 April**
2. ESFA UPDATE **30 April**
3. IfATE list of Standards with temporary discretions or flexibilities
4. IfATE/ESFA EPA Update 6
5. IfATE Senior Leader Timeline for Implementation
6. IfATE Apprentice Survey Page and also see :
 - IfATE Apprentice Survey - Word Version
7. DfE Statistics March 2020
8. HASO FAQs

Further Information



- Listen to the 1st May Forum Webcast: [HERE](#)
- Listen to the 24 April UPDATED ESFA FAQ Webcast: [HERE](#)
- **NEXT WEEKS FORUMS:**
- May 7th Forum 12.00 Register [HERE](#)
- Nursing Associate Forum 6 May 2pm Register [HERE](#)



- Queries: email me 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