

*now what!—*

# **CORVID-19 WEB FORUM**

## **Friday 22 May 2020**

**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 & CDA website



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 Apprenticeships **[HERE](#)**



A quick survey follows the webinar close and contains space for comments or questions



## **Covid-19 Forum**

**Friday** May 28 12.00pm

Register **[HERE](#)** :

**[Temp Check for May Transition Planning](#)**

# This Week (\*\*see RESOURCES for annotated versions)

1. ESFA coronavirus response guidance : **19.05\*\***
2. IfATE Corvid-19 FAQ: 06.05
3. ESFA UPDATE: **20.05**
3. IfATE Corvid-19 Response – not updated
4. IfATE list of Agreed Flexibilities : **21.05 \*\*\*none for Higher Education**
5. Confirmation of withdrawals of Frameworks on 31.07
6. SENIOR LEADER: Latest Questions

# ESFA Comms - Providers



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

View in Browser | May 2020

## DEAR

Following on from the coronavirus (COVID-19) related emails we have recently sent you in relation to apprenticeships, we are writing to you again to keep you informed of our latest developments and coronavirus related guidance for the sector.

Our [guidance](#) has been updated with:

- Confirmation that apprenticeship training and assessment can continue in line with the new safer working guidance
- Confirmation that from 1 June apprentices can train in an education setting in line with the [maintaining education and skills training provision: further education providers guidance](#)
- Confirmation that we are extending the transition period onto the apprenticeship service. All starts will be through the apprenticeship service from 1 April 2021.
- Examples of how to calculate wages for a furloughed apprentice
- More information on the existing support available to redundant apprentices
- Updated off-the-job and EPA FAQs

We would encourage employers to speak to their training providers about the [changes](#) we're making to help apprentices continue learning and complete their apprenticeship.

The guidance includes a [frequently asked questions section](#) and further information to help guide and advise you throughout this unprecedented period.

Our information should be read alongside [the government's COVID-19 guidance and support for businesses](#). Please check the guidance regularly for updates and more detail.

Should you have any queries about the content in this communication please visit the [apprenticeship service help centre](#) where you can also find useful articles about the changes.

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Apprenticeship  
Service



HM Government

# ESFA Comms - EPAO

## Switch of for Apprenticeship Frameworks confirmed for 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020

- all new learners should be on apprenticeship standards from 1 August 2020

From: Apprentice.ASSESSMENT@education.gov.uk

Sent: 20 May 2020 13:36

**Subject: Framework withdrawal - EPAO comms**

Importance: High

Dear Organisation,

**Reminder: all new learners should be on apprenticeship standards from 1 August 2020**

We would like to remind End Point Assessment Organisations that all remaining apprenticeship frameworks will be withdrawn to new starts on 31 July 2020. This follows the Government's announcement in October 2018, which confirmed that from 1 August 2020, all new apprenticeship starts must be on new, employer-designed standards.

It is important that you factor this into your business planning particularly once the COVID-19 pandemic subsides, given the likelihood of increased demand for End Point Assessment in later years as a result of apprenticeship starts only being on standards from 1 August.

Kind regards

Apprentice Assessment Team

Education & Skills Funding Agency

# **COVID-19 UPDATED GUIDANCE**

## **19.05**

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# ESFA Covid-19 Response

## Coronavirus (COVID-19): apprenticeship programme response

Guidance for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessment organisations in response to the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Published 23 March 2020

Last updated 19 May 2020 — [see all updates](#)

From: [Department for Education](#) and [Education and Skills Funding Agency](#)

Applies to: England

## Documents

- From 1 June 2020, apprenticeships may start to be delivered in an educational setting again, in line with the [guidance on wider opening from 1 June 2020](#) and [guidance for further education providers](#). This includes apprenticeship training taking place in training centres. Educational settings must adhere to the principles set out in the [guidance on protective measures in educational settings](#).

# ESFA Help Articles

Our information should be read alongside [the government's COVID-19 guidance and support for businesses](#), in particular the salary support for furloughed employees, which also applies to apprentices.

We have also broken down some of this guidance into [articles for employers, training providers and EPAOs](#), as well as [articles for apprentices](#). These can be found on our Apprenticeship Service Help page.

[Read guidance from the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education \(IFATE\)](#) on the delivery of assessment.

## **Employer**

- [Apprenticeship funding](#)
- [Reset your password](#)
- [Apprenticeship record status and completion payment month](#)
- [Expired funds](#)
- [No apprenticeship service account verification code](#)
- [Change your contact details](#)
- [View all employer articles](#)

## **Training provider**

- [Apply to join the register of apprenticeship training providers](#)
- [After you apply for the register of approved training providers](#)
- [Issues with the apprenticeship service for training providers](#)
- [Set up an employer account](#)
- [Learning end dates](#)
- [Training provider permissions](#)
- [View all training provider articles](#)

## **End-point assessment organisation**

- [Record a grade API](#)
- [Get an end-point assessment plan](#)
- [Apply to assess a standard](#)
- [Request an apprenticeship certificate](#)
- [Get a replacement apprenticeship certificate](#)
- [Record an end-point assessment](#)
- [View all end-point assessment organisation articles](#)



# ESFA Guidance Updated 19 May

Updated Pack : 240420

- The updated pack has changed the question numbering and new sections / questions are not highlighted ...
- Our slides cover these
- Do read the full detailed text

## In Summary /Key Themes:

- Advice on some furlough scenarios
- Clarification on Redundancy support and furlough wage calculations

## Highlighted :

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

**5** New Questions

**2** New Topics

**4** Statements

All of these are relevant for all parties

## Furloughed Apprentices

**20,21,22**

## Apprentices who are made redundant

**24**

## End-point Assessment

**43**

# ESFA GUIDANCE – Main Guidance Updated 19 May

## General Guidance – NEW Topics

- how apprenticeship training and assessment can continue in line with the new safer working guidance
- extensions to contracts for training providers with existing procured contracts

## General Guidance - NEW Statements

- supporting employers, providers and apprentices to work together to mutually agree where and how this training takes place. This includes in the workplace where a provider is able to do so safely and where that workplace meets new 'coronavirus secure' guidelines on ensuring the workplace is safe
- confirming that we are extending the transition period onto the apprenticeship service. Funds available for new starts on non-levy procured contracts can now be used until 31 March 2021. All starts will be through the apprenticeship service from 1 April 2021
- This guidance and these measures start immediately and apply until further notice, unless otherwise stated
- We have also broken down some of this guidance into [articles for employers, training providers and EPAOs](#), as well as [articles for apprentices](#). These can be found on our Apprenticeship Service Help page.

# ESFA GUIDANCE – Main Guidance Updated 19 May

## Apprenticeship programme response

- Recently, new 'COVID-19 secure' guidelines have been made available to UK employers to help them get their businesses back up and running and workplaces operating as safely as possible. The [new guidance, published on 11 May](#), covers 8 workplace settings which are allowed to be open.
- Following the Prime Minister's announcement setting out the steps to restart the economy, we understand that some apprentices may be returning to work and able to continue or restart their training in the workplace.
- To ensure that we are supporting as many apprentices to continue their apprenticeship as possible, new arrangements will be supported alongside the existing flexibilities about where apprenticeship training is delivered. Where a provider is able to do so safely, apprenticeships can be delivered:
  - remotely where an apprentice is working from home, or is furloughed
  - in the workplace where the apprentice is a critical worker or is returning to work, where that workplace meets new 'COVID-19 secure' guidelines on ensuring the workplace is safe
- We support employers, providers and apprentices working together to mutually agree where and how this training takes place.
- To ensure that apprentices can work to complete their apprenticeship, new assessment arrangements will be supported alongside the existing flexibilities about how apprenticeship assessments are delivered. Where remote assessments can take place, meaning apprentices can stay home, these are preferable. If there is no option to take the assessment remotely, and an assessment centre meets the safer working guidance, then apprentices can travel to them to undertake their EPA.
- From 1 June 2020, apprenticeships may start to be delivered in an educational setting again, in line with the [guidance on wider opening from 1 June 2020](#) and [guidance for further education providers](#). This includes apprenticeship training taking place in training centres. Educational settings must adhere to the principles set out in the [guidance on protective measures in educational settings](#).

# ESFA GUIDANCE – Main Guidance Updated 19 May

## Non levy procured apprenticeships contracts

- Contract extensions were issued to training providers at the beginning of March via the [Manage your education and skills funding service](#), with a start date of 1 April 2020.
- Training providers with existing procured contracts received extensions to these same contracts, which cover the existing financial year (2020-21). These extensions are to fund carry-over costs for existing apprentices as well as new apprenticeship starts, with start dates up to and including 31 October 2020. This aligned with our intention for all starts to be funded through the apprenticeship service from 1 November 2020.
- In light of the challenges being faced by providers and employers as a result of the current coronavirus outbreak, we are extending the procured contracts to extend the transition period onto the service. Funds available for new starts on non-levy procured contracts can now be used until 31 March 2021.
- Following this extended transition all starts will be funded through the apprenticeship service from 1 April 2021. Contract variations will be issued in the summer to support the changes and performance management rules will be confirmed shortly through the usual routes.
- We remain committed to giving smaller employers greater control over their apprenticeship choices by moving towards a system in which employers select an apprenticeship standard, choose their training provider and secure access to funding for all new apprenticeships through the apprenticeship service. As originally planned, this means, over time, more employers who do not pay the apprenticeship levy will begin to access apprenticeship training via the apprenticeship service, as well as through a provider with an existing Government contract (now extended until 31 March 2021).

# ESFA GUIDANCE – Main Guidance Updated 19 May

## Furloughed apprentices

- The CJRS will continue in its current form until the end of July (i.e. the government paying the 80% subsidy). The Chancellor has been clear that getting people back to work will be introduced in a measured way, avoiding a cliff edge. As the Chancellor announced (on 12 May) from August, employers currently using the scheme will have more flexibility to bring their furloughed employees back to work part time whilst still receiving support from the scheme.
- This will run for three months from August through to the end of October. Employers will be asked to pay a percentage towards the salaries of their furloughed staff. The employer payments will substitute the contribution the government is currently making, ensuring that staff continue to receive 80% of their salary, up to £2,500 a month. More specific details and information around implementation will be made available by the end of May.
- For additional information read [HMRC's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme guidance](#).

# ESFA GUIDANCE – FAQs Updated 19 May

## Apprentices who are furloughed

### **20. Where an apprentice is furloughed can they and their employer still take part in a progress review?**

- Yes, where apprentices are furloughed, they can continue to train for their apprenticeships as long as it does not provide services to or generate revenue for their employer. This includes progress reviews.
- If the employer (line manager) is also furloughed, then we appreciate that arranging a progress review may be more difficult at this current time. But, provided the discussion is about the progress of the apprenticeship, they are able to take part in the discussion.

### **21. Can a furloughed apprentice use work technology (laptop etc) to access apprenticeship off-the-job training?**

- Yes, a work laptop can be used to access apprenticeship training if this is the only option, but the apprentice must be mindful of the fact that whilst they are furloughed they must not carry out their normal work.

### **22. Can a furloughed apprentice listen in to (without taking part in) a work-related meeting / discussion to aid off-the-job training?**

- Apprentices who are continuing to train for their apprenticeships must not provide services to or generate revenue for their employer. If an employer wants to query an example of what an apprentice can do whilst on furlough they should speak to the [HMRC helpline](#).

# ESFA GUIDANCE – FAQs Updated 19 May

## Apprentices who are made redundant

### 24. What funding support is currently available to support redundant apprentices?

- The existing funding support relating to redundancy is outlined in the table below. In addition to this funding support, a package of pastoral support is currently being put together and information will follow on this shortly.

## End point assessment (EPA)

### 43. What will happen if an apprentice's line manager has been furloughed and their employer is unable to confirm their readiness to take EPA with their training provider and EPAO?

- If the person who would normally sign an apprentice off as ready to take their EPA has been furloughed, and there is no suitable alternative, we support providers to make the gateway decision. This temporary arrangement can only be relied upon where the provider can provide evidence to the EPAO that the apprentice has met the relevant gateway requirements and is ready to sit their EPA. Where this is not the case then the EPA should be rescheduled.
- Apprentices whose gateway is delayed can have an extension to the assessment timeframe.

# UPDATE

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# ESFA Update 20.05

## Switch of for Apprenticeship Frameworks confirmed for 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020

- all new learners should be on apprenticeship standards from 1 August 2020

## Revised subcontracting declarations are due where your subcontracting relationships or values changed between 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

- **Submit** via the [Manage your education skills funding \(MYESF\)](#) service
- **If you do not subcontract you are still required to make a nil return.**
- The next declaration window will include a final deadline for submitting this round of declarations.

## Apprenticeship service - completed status

- The new “Completed” status on Apprenticeship Service records can be view and used to filter the status of all your apprentice records within the ‘Manage your apprentices’ section of your account.
  - Each apprentice record will have one of the following statuses:
  - **‘Waiting to start’**: apprentices who are waiting to start their apprenticeship training
  - **‘Live’**: apprentices who are currently undertaking their apprenticeship
  - **‘Paused’**: the employer has applied a temporary pause to an apprentice record
  - **‘Stopped’**: the employer has applied a permanent stop to an apprentice record
  - **‘Completed’**: the training provider has returned the individualised learner record (ILR) as completed confirming that the apprentice finished their apprenticeship training and assessment.
- Once an apprentice record updates to ‘Completed’, a completion payment month is displayed on the record. This shows the month that the 20% completion payment to the provider was processed.
  - The completion payment month may differ from date the apprentice finished their apprenticeship.
  - Historical apprentice records, where the training and assessment had previously been completed, have also been updated.
  - **Do not stop an apprentice record that has completed.**

# **SENIOR LEADER DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP**

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# Senior Leader FAQ & Transcript

**What monitoring of take-up and mix and balance of employers and apprentices do you undertake to check that a change hasn't had any unintended consequences?**

- *IfATE confirmed that the starts data they use comes from the ILR and this is the same database that is used by DfE to create the statistical first release (SFR). For internal IfA purposes they try to use the most up-to-date data they can. However there is a lag in the data presented in the SFR, for example the latest data published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-apprenticeships> only presents data up to January 2020*

**Is the IfATE using the new funding methodology [when available] to set the funding band?**

- *IfATE stated that that they were are unable to confirm timings for introducing the new funding methodology, and it is unlikely that this will be used for calculating the funding band for the revised Senior Leader Standard.*

# FUTURE FOCUS TEMPERATURE CHECK - [SURVEY LINK](#)

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# POLICY UPDATE

Adrian Anderson

# Policy Update : Look Back/Look Forwards

## **Consultations:**

- **IFATE Review of the Level 7 Senior Leader Apprenticeship** – CLOSED 29 APRIL. UVAC Statement: <https://uvac.ac.uk/ifate-consultation-on-the-level-7-senior-leader-apprenticeship-uvac-statement-to-ifate/>
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- **IfATE Funding Band Recommendation Process** – CLOSED 18 MAY. UVAC Response: <https://uvac.ac.uk/ifate-consultation-on-the-funding-band-recommendation-process-uvac-draft-response/>
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- **IfATE External Quality Assurance Provision** – CLOSED 21 MAY. UVAC Outline Response: <https://uvac.ac.uk/ifate-external-quality-assurance-provision-consultation-outline-uvac-response/>

## **Thinking & Influencing:**

- Treasury Review of the Levy and Spending Review
- Covid 19 and the Future – Apprenticeship, Skills, FE and HE
- Ministerial Meetings, Treasury, DfE, ESFA and IfATE

## **For Action:**

- Senior Leader Revised Standard – publication for comments – **DUE 27 MAY**

# Policy Update : Look Forward

## **UVAC Invitations and Publications:**

- **Literature Review:** *The Value of the Degree in Management and Leadership Apprenticeships* – **DUE w/c 25 MAY**
- **Research Report:** *'Sustainable Degree Apprenticeships'* produced by Middlesex, Sheffield Hallam and Staffordshire Universities and UVAC (funded by the Edge Foundation) includes a series of recommendations that would ensure that the success of Degree Apprenticeships is sustained. **DUE w/c 1 JUNE**

## **Case Studies:**

- *The benefits and success of Senior Leader Degree Apprenticeships* – **DUE w/c 8 JUNE**

**UVAC Task and Finish Group: A post-covid 19 system for quality public sector services, economic recovery and longer-term economic success** – **FINAL report due w/c 22 JUNE:**

<https://uvac.ac.uk/uvac-task-and-finish-group-a-post-covid-19-system-for-quality-public-sector-services-economic-recovery-and-long-term-economic-success/>

**UVAC Blueprint for a financially sustainable apprenticeship and skills system** – **OPEN for FEEDBACK:** <https://uvac.ac.uk/blueprint-for-a-financially-sustainable-apprenticeship-and-skills-system-uvac-opinion/>

# Resources from Today's Session

1. ESFA coronavirus response guidance : 19.05  
UVAC Version with changes highlighted [CLICK HERE](#)
2. ESFA UPDATE: 20.05
3. IfATE list of Agreed Flexibilities : 21.05 none for Higher Education  
UVAC Version with changes highlighted [CLICK HERE](#)
3. Updated UVAC Coronavirus FAQ
4. SENIOR LEADER: [FAQ v2](#) & [Transcript](#)
5. LINKS to all the UVAC consultation responses – See Policy Update Slides
6. [LINK TO OUR TEMPERATURE CHECK SURVEY](#)



# Further Information



- Listen to the 22 May Forum Webcast: [HERE](#)
- May 29 Forum 12.00 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