



Department for Education

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Changes to Apprenticeships

There has been a flurry of announcements in the area of apprenticeships recently ...

Firstly, the intention to offer shorter apprenticeships and the clarification that only apprentices who began their apprenticeship training when aged 16 to 18 will continue to be subject to the mandatory requirement to study towards and achieve English and maths. Apprentices who began their training when aged 19 or older, and their employer, can still choose to study towards English and Maths qualifications if they wish, but the choice is optional. DfE will continue to fund adult apprentices who take up this option at the current rate. The change is effective as of February 11, 2025 and applies to new starts as well as existing learners on-programme.

An EPA Review has been announced with the objective that the apprenticeship system will be simplified with payment and EPA changes. The intention is for existing assessment plans to be rewritten on a standard-by-standard basis to reflect these changes, with the first plans being revised from April 2025.



Aims of Skills England:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/skills-england>

Leadership team:

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/skills-england/>

Skills England – IfATE V2.0 or more than that?

A fundamental cornerstone of the new government's manifesto, Skills England is a new arms-length body that will bring together key partners to meet the skills needs of the next decade. It is intended that the agency will replace the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) during 2025 and one of its key aims is to shape technical education to respond to skills needs, including identifying the training accessible via the Growth and Skills Levy.

How will the new body be different to IfATE? What are its objectives? Will the levy change? We are very pleased to announce that Carmel Grant, IfATE's Acting CEO, will join us at the AO-Forum in April. Carmel will provide an invaluable insight into the role of Skills England and the latest developments within the new body.

You can see the full AO-Forum agenda at: www.awardingorganisation.com



<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-seeks-views-on-improvements-to-supporting-compliance-for-aos>

Consultation announced: Ofqual seeks views on improvements to supporting compliance for AOs

Ofqual has recently announced a consultation on supporting compliance for AOs. The changes are designed both to support awarding organisations and ensure that enforcement action, when it is needed, is proportionate and fair, to maintain the standards of qualifications that students and the public rely on.

Proposals include:

- a streamlined process for settling simple cases quickly, where organisations agree they have breached Ofqual's conditions
- a new sanction of a public rebuke from the regulator in cases where it's right that a failure to follow regulatory rules be addressed formally and publicly, but where a fine may not be proportionate

The consultation was announced on Thursday, 20 February 2025, and will end on Tuesday, 15 May 2025, at 11:45pm. Click on the link to the left for further information.