



FORUM

Newsletter May 2025 *the nuts & bolts of awarding ...*



Changes to Apprenticeships

Carmel Grant, Acting CEO of IfATE, joined us at AO-Forum 2025 to explain the plans for IfATE's transition to Skills England. The new organisation will be formed during 2025 and the main board positions have already been announced. Carmel also talked us through a number of important policy updates ...

Maths & English

The government is giving employers more flexibility over Maths and English requirements for apprentices. Businesses will now be able to decide whether adult learners, over the age of 19 will need to complete a level 2 English and maths qualification (equivalent to GCSE) to pass it.

Apprenticeship Durations

The government will be reducing the minimum duration of apprenticeships from 12 months to 8 months where a learner can achieve occupational competence more quickly.

Assessment Principles

EPA assessment principles are being reformed and some of the key changes are:

- on-programme assessment will be allowed
- centre assessment where appropriate
- employer-verified behaviours

Reading between the lines ...

For those who have invested heavily in building EPAO businesses, it's good to hear IfATE/Skills England still have an EPA book-ending every apprenticeship. Not only is it good for those businesses, but it's the right thing to do: independent assessment is a critical aspect of good apprenticeships.

To see Carmel's slides, please see www.awardingorganisation.com/archive



UK Education – A Great British Export

We were very pleased to welcome Jonathan Ledger from the Department of Business & Trade to AO-Forum 2025 who shared some great facts ...

- 90+ Awarding bodies deliver regulated qualifications overseas
- 120+ Countries are being supported by UK awarding bodies
- 8.7million Regulated certificates are issued across the world
- £6.7billion Value of global skills delivery from UK providers

Marketing quals overseas? Jonathan explained how DBT can help and these include:

- Co-ordinating formal events and round table discussions between foreign governments/businesses and UK AOs
- Make formal introductions to UK institutions which have expressed an interest in a particular market
- Share updated information with UK institutions on a country's regulations and license applications
- Alert AOs of formal tender processes overseas

To see Jonathan's slides (and to get his contact details) please refer to the AO-Forum site: www.awardingorganisation.com/archive

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