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Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Updated 19 July 2017

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1. Update to learning aim search on the Hub

Information

We have updated the search functions for learning aims on the Hub. You can now find a new field to indicate an integrated degree standard and enhanced display features that allow search results to be sorted by column.

You can also find further information on the other developments in the [table and field definitions for 2017 to 2018](#) and [learning aims search guidance](#).

If you have any questions, please contact servicedesk@SFA.bis.gov.uk.

2. Payment history available in the Skills Funding Service

Information

You can now see historical payment information related to your contracts for the last two years in the [Skills Funding Service](#).

You will be able to view this information if you have any of the following [user roles](#):

- contract authoriser
- contract manager
- contract user
- data returns and claims manager

If you have any questions, please contact servicedesk@SFA.bis.gov.uk.

3. Customer engagement user research

Information

Many thanks to those of you who have been involved in our customer engagement focus groups so far, or volunteered for a telephone interview.

We are looking for a final few volunteers for telephone interviews. If you are from a maintained school, an FE college or a sixth form college and can be available for an hour long phone call with one of our researchers in the next week please contact us at ESFA@education.gov.uk.

The purpose of the research is to understand your experience of engaging with us, identify what works well for you and where we may need to make improvements.

4. FE Choices Learner Satisfaction Survey 2016 to 2017

Information

We published the [2016 to 2017 FE Choices Learner Satisfaction Survey](#) on Thursday 13 July. Colleges and training providers that had access to personalised reports earlier in the summer, can now compare their results with other providers and view the overall summary of the national results.

Key findings show that:

- overall, 83% of respondents would recommend their learning provider to friends or family, with over a third (38%) saying they were extremely likely to recommend the learning provider
- learners aged 25 or over were more likely to recommend the learning provider, with 93% of adults aged 25 and over saying they would do so
- the survey also found most apprenticeship framework areas were highly rated by learners compared to classroom-based study in equivalent subject areas

For further information, please view the [published data files and reports](#) or contact the [Service Desk](#).

5. Update on procurement for non-levy paying employers

Information

In April, we announced a pause on the procurement exercise for apprenticeship training provision for non-levy-paying employers.

We have now cancelled this procurement and will launch a new procurement at the end of July.

The new procurement will ensure we achieve the best value for employers, providers and apprentices in the move to a fully employer-led system.

While the new procurement exercise is open, the [register of apprenticeship training providers](#) will not re-open for new applications.

This procurement will not affect training provision for existing learners.

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