



Guidance

Withdrawal of frameworks - guidance for Issuing Authorities

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We are currently phasing the [withdrawal of apprenticeship frameworks](#) as employers take on apprentices on the new standards, ensuring that Issuing Authorities (IAs) and training providers have reasonable notice to prepare for the changes.

We understand that some IAs are preparing to manage the transition themselves, by voluntarily withdrawing either entire frameworks or specific level and/or pathways, and we support this activity, with the following guidance.

1. Consultation with the sector

We expect IAs to publish a consultation document with their proposed withdrawal dates. This will allow employers, providers and awarding organisations to provide feedback and register any concerns about the proposed withdrawal dates. Following consultation, IAs should publish the final agreed list of frameworks and their withdrawal dates and notify their network of providers, employers and awarding organisations. IAs should also send the final list to ESFA and Federation for Industry Sector Skills and Standards (FISSS) so that they can take appropriate action, as required.

2. Sufficient notice periods

A minimum of 6 months' notice of any withdrawal date should be given. This allows training providers to develop and update their delivery plans.

3. The replacement standard is fully developed and ready for delivery

We expect that the replacement standard will have been approved and published for delivery by the withdrawal date and will cover the occupation of the framework pathway, leaving no gaps in provision.

NB: If the framework and/or pathway is being withdrawn because there has been little, or no, demand (for example, less than 10 starts a year), we still expect you expect you to complete steps 1 and 2.

4. End point assessment organisations

Once the replacement standard and assessment plan are approved, published and ready for delivery, [organisations can apply to be registered to undertake end-point assessment](#). We would expect there to be end point assessment organisations available, within a reasonable timescale.

For further information, please contact the [ESFA's service desk](#) on 0370 2670001 or FISSS helpdesk on 0300 303 4444.

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