



Skills Funding
Agency

Apprenticeship funding and performance-management rules for training providers

May 2017 to March 2018

Version 1

This document sets out the funding rules which will apply to all training providers delivering the apprenticeship programme following the introduction of the apprenticeship levy. It also sets out the performance-management rules which will apply to all training providers delivering apprenticeships to non-levy-paying employers.

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Of interest to colleges, training providers, higher education institutions and employers delivering training to staff outside of their organisation.

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Introduction and purpose of the document

- P1. This document sets out the funding and performance-management rules for training providers delivering apprenticeship training and assessment for employers under the new apprenticeship programme from 1 May 2017.
- P2. You can find details on the features of the new apprenticeship funding system, including how we will calculate funding for organisations receiving funding from us, in the [Apprenticeship technical funding guide for starts from May 2017](#).
- P3. We use the term 'you' to refer to the 'main provider', that is, any organisation holding a contract with us through which we directly route funds from an employer's digital account or government-employer co-investment. The main provider will have the overall responsibility for the training and on-programme assessment conducted by themselves, their delivery subcontractors and have a contractual relationship on behalf of the employer for the end-point assessment conducted by apprentice assessment organisations. Where we use the term, 'you' we are also referring to any organisation contracted by you to deliver the apprenticeship on your behalf.
- P4. The terms 'we', 'our', 'us' and 'SFA' refer to the Skills Funding Agency.
- P5. These rules form part of your terms and conditions for the use of funds in an employer's digital account or for government-employer co-investment and you must read them in conjunction with your funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education acting through the Skills Funding Agency (the SFA), an executive agency of the Department for Education.
- P6. The SFA may make changes to these rules.
- P7. If you are a training provider delivering the new apprenticeship programme, you must operate within the terms and conditions of your funding agreement, these rules, and the [Individualised Learner Record \(ILR\) Specification](#). If you do not, you will be in breach of your funding agreement with the SFA.
- P8. If you breach your funding agreement, we reserve the right to take action.
- P9. Training providers can contact us through our Business Operations Service Desk at servicedesk@sfa.bis.gov.uk or telephone 0370 2640001. You can also contact your provider management manager/adviser.
- P10. These rules will apply to all apprenticeship programmes starting on or after 1 May 2017. This includes both apprenticeship frameworks and standards. We will use the generic term apprenticeship for all types of apprenticeship, unless we state otherwise.
- P11. Any apprenticeship which started before 1 May 2017 will continue to follow the rules in the documents we list below and which you can access on [GOV.UK](#).
- 11.1. Skills Funding Agency: common funding rules 2016 to 2017
 - 11.2. Apprenticeships: common funding rules 2016 to 2017
 - 11.3. Apprenticeship framework funding rules 2016 to 2017

Understanding the terminology

- P12. We use the term ‘apprenticeship’ to mean the training and (where applicable) end-point assessment for an employee as part of a job with an accompanying skills development programme funded by us. The term ‘apprenticeship’ is legally protected and can only be used to describe a statutory apprenticeship as set out in the [Enterprise Act 2016](#). You can find a full definition of an approved English apprenticeship on the [legislation website](#).
- P13. We use the term ‘apprentice’ to include all those who receive apprenticeship training and (where applicable), end-point assessment through an apprenticeship framework or standard funded by us.
- P14. We use the term ‘funding agreement’ to include:
- 14.1. the apprenticeship levy provider funding agreement
 - 14.2. the contract for services between the employer and provider
 - 14.3. the contract for services – apprenticeships (between the SFA and providers delivering apprenticeships to non-levy-paying employers)
- P15. We use the term ‘this document’ to refer to the apprenticeship funding and performance-management: rules May 2017 to March 2018 for training providers.
- P16. We use the term ‘provider’ to include any organisation on the register of apprenticeship training providers and appointed by an employer and/or holding a current funding agreement with us or contracted through a main provider for the delivery of training and on-programme assessment, as part of the employer’s agreed apprenticeship programme. This includes companies, charities, bodies, colleges, universities, sole traders and other types of legal entity, including those who are in the same group as, or are associated with, the main provider. This excludes individuals who are self-employed or supplied by an employment agency and who are working under the main provider’s direction and control, in the same way as an employee.
- P17. We use the term ‘delivery subcontractor’ to include any organisation contracted through a main provider or employer-provider to deliver apprenticeship off-the-job training, English or maths or planned on-programme assessment. This excludes apprentice assessment organisations and other subcontractors you use for different services, including help with marketing or data management. This also excludes subcontractors who deliver training to an apprentice that is in addition to the apprenticeship and not funded through this route.
- P18. We use the terms ‘standard’ and ‘apprenticeship standard’ to cover the apprenticeship standards which employers have designed. This is defined as those standards that have had their assessment plan approved and have been published alongside their allocated funding band.
- P19. We use the terms ‘framework’ and ‘apprenticeship framework’ to cover the apprenticeship frameworks which are available for delivery.
- P20. [The Hub](#) contains details of eligible apprenticeships.

- P21. We use the term ‘employer’ to mean an organisation that has a contract of employment with an apprentice, including apprenticeship training agencies. This may also include a company or charity whose PAYE scheme the employer has connected to their digital account in accordance with HMRC’s definition of connected companies and charities. All references to an ‘employer’ are in relation to the whole organisation and not individual sites or locations.
- P22. We use the term ‘apprentice assessment organisation’ to include any organisation on the [Register of apprentice assessment organisations](#) (RoAAO) and selected by an employer and contracted by a main provider for the delivery of end-point assessment as part of the employer’s agreed apprenticeship programme.
- P23. We use the term ‘training’ to mean the delivery of training and on-programme assessment by a main provider or any organisation contracted to a main provider for this purpose.
- P24. The ‘apprenticeship service’ is the service that will allow employers to choose, and pay for, the apprenticeship training that they want and will support the uptake of apprenticeships. The service is designed primarily for employers, with information coming from a range of different sources, including training providers.
- P25. We use the term ‘employer’s digital account’ or ‘digital account’ to mean the part of the apprenticeship service that will allow employers to view the funds that they have available to spend on apprenticeships in England and direct us to pay for their chosen apprenticeship training and assessment.
- P26. We use the term ‘government-employer co-investment’ to mean funding that is not paid for from an employer’s digital account because the employer does not pay the levy or has insufficient levy funds in their digital account. Employers will need to make a mandatory co-investment with the government which we detail in paragraphs 168 to 173.

What is an apprenticeship?

Genuine job

- P27. An apprenticeship is a genuine job with an accompanying skills development programme. Through their apprenticeship, apprentices gain the technical knowledge, practical experience and wider skills they need for their immediate job and future career. The apprentice gains this through a wide mix of learning in the workplace, formal off-the-job training and the opportunity to practise new skills in a real work environment.
- P28. By ‘genuine’ we mean that:
- 28.1. the apprentice must have a contract of employment which is long enough for them to complete the apprenticeship successfully or be employed by an apprenticeship training agency (ATA)
 - 28.2. the cost of the apprentice’s wages must be met by the employer
 - 28.3. the apprentice must have a job role (or roles) within the organisation that provides the opportunity for them to gain the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to achieve their apprenticeship

28.4. the apprentice must have appropriate support from within the organisation to carry out their job role

- P29. When the apprenticeship is achieved the apprentice should remain with the employer, where a job opportunity continues to exist and where the apprentice wishes to remain. Where this is not possible, the apprentice must be supported by their provider and employer to seek alternative opportunities.
- P30. The SFA will monitor apprentice destination data and HMRC data to ensure that job roles are genuine and are not created purely for the purposes of the apprenticeship programme. We will take action if employer recruitment practice is detrimental either to the apprentice or to the apprenticeship brand.

Off-the-job training

- P31. Off-the-job training is defined as learning which is undertaken outside of the normal day-to-day working environment and leads towards the achievement of an apprenticeship. This can include training that is delivered at the apprentice's normal place of work but must not be delivered as part of their normal working duties.
- P32. The off-the-job training must be directly relevant to the apprenticeship framework or standard and could include the following.
- 32.1. The teaching of theory (for example, lectures, role playing, simulation exercises, online learning, manufacturer training).
 - 32.2. Practical training; shadowing; mentoring; industry visits and attendance at competitions.
 - 32.3. Learning support and time spent writing assessments/assignments.
 - 32.4. Off-the-job training does not include:
 - 32.4.1. English and maths (up to level 2) which is funded separately (please see paragraphs 98 to 107)
 - 32.4.2. progress reviews or on-programme assessment required for an apprenticeship framework or standard
 - 32.4.3. training which takes place outside the apprentice's normal working hours (this cannot count towards the 20% off-the-job training)

Apprentices' wages

- P33. Apprentices must be an employee on the first day of their apprenticeship and be paid at least a wage consistent with the law for the time they are in work and in off-the-job training. You can find information on the definition of an employee and information on the national minimum wage on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Use of funds

- P34. To use funds in an employer's digital account or from government-employer co-investment for an apprenticeship, you must:
- 34.1. retain evidence of the apprentice's employment
 - 34.2. be satisfied that this is the most appropriate learning programme and have evidence that it is:
 - 34.2.1. either a new job role
 - 34.2.2. or an existing job role, where the individual needs significant new knowledge and skills
 - 34.3. and have evidence that the apprentice spends at least 20% of their time on off-the-job training (please see paragraphs 31 and 32), recognising that apprentices may need more than 20% off-the-job training, for example if they need English and maths
 - 34.3.1. It is up to you and the employer to decide how the off-the-job training is delivered. This may include regular day release, block release and special training days/workshops.
 - 34.4. have evidence that the job allows the apprentice to gain wider employment experience as part of the apprenticeship
- P35. You must not use funds from an employer's digital account or government-employer co-investment for any part of any apprentice's programme where either you or another party claim funding from another government department or agency for the same purpose. This includes any funding from the European Social Fund, the Education Funding Agency or Jobcentre Plus for that individual.
- P36. You must not claim funding for any part of any apprentice's programme that duplicates training or assessment they have received from any other source.

Apprenticeship agreement and commitment statement

- P37. You must evidence that an apprentice has an [apprenticeship agreement](#) at the start of, and throughout, their apprenticeship between the employer and apprentice as defined in the [Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009](#).
- 37.1. This can be a written statement of particulars under the [Employment Rights Act 1996](#), a contract of employment or a letter of engagement, where the employer's duty under the 1996 Act is treated as met.
 - 37.2. You must keep a copy of any revisions to the apprenticeship agreement resulting from a change in circumstance in the evidence pack.
 - 37.3. Apprentices who are made redundant through no fault of their own, up to six months before the planned end-date of their apprenticeship, do not need to be employed under an apprenticeship agreement. (Please see paragraphs 196 and 197.)

- P38. You must have in place a written agreement and a commitment statement (please see paragraphs 180 to 182) at the start, and for the entire length of, the apprenticeship (updated as needed), with signed copies. These must be distributed to all three parties (training provider, employer and apprentice).

Apprenticeship duration and employment hours

- P39. The minimum duration of an apprenticeship is one year unless the framework or standard specification or assessment plan requires it to be longer. In apprenticeship standards, the end-point assessment can only be taken after the minimum duration has been met. (Please see paragraph 118.) You must ensure the apprentice meets the minimum apprenticeship duration rules.
- P40. You must not claim an apprenticeship framework completion certificate on behalf of the apprentice from Apprenticeship Certificates England if the minimum duration has not been met. For standards, you must ensure that the minimum duration has been met as part of confirming end-point assessment gateway requirements.
- P41. The apprentice must be involved in active learning or monitored workplace practice throughout an apprenticeship. The apprentice can, after achieving all mandatory requirements of an apprenticeship, stay in learning until they meet the minimum duration and embed the skills they have gained. You must have evidence that the apprentice continues in learning.
- P42. The minimum duration of each apprenticeship is based on the apprentice working 30 hours a week or more, including any off-the-job training they undertake.
- P43. The apprentice must work enough hours each week so that they can undertake sufficient, regular training and on-the-job activity. This is to ensure the apprentice is likely to successfully complete their apprenticeship. You must keep evidence of the agreed average weekly hours, including time spent on off-the-job training in the evidence pack.
- P44. The employer must allow the apprentice to complete the apprenticeship within their working hours. This includes English and maths. They must provide you with evidence of this for you to keep in the evidence pack.
- P45. If the apprentice works fewer than 30 hours a week you must extend the minimum duration (pro rata) to take account of this. This will also apply to any temporary period of part-time working.
- P46. Where a part-time working pattern is needed, you must jointly agree with the employer and the apprentice the extended apprenticeship duration. You must also meet the conditions set out in paragraph 50.
- P47. Where part-time working is agreed, you must:
- 47.1. record the agreed average number of hours each week
 - 47.2. evidence why this working pattern is needed
 - 47.3. extend the minimum duration using the following formula:
 - 47.3.1. $12 \times 30 / \text{average weekly hours} = \text{new minimum duration in months}$

- P48. Zero-hours contracts are acceptable only where they meet all of the other rules in this document. For an apprentice with a zero-hour contract you must ensure the employer extends the duration of the apprenticeship in proportion to the hours they work.
- P49. An apprentice with a zero-hours contract must be allowed to complete their apprenticeship in their working hours, including the off-the-job training. Where this is not possible, you must record a break in the apprenticeship. We will monitor working hours' data and apprentice retention to ensure apprentices on zero-hours contracts are given the same opportunity to achieve their apprenticeship as those on fixed hours.
- P50. Working fewer than 30 hours a week or being on a zero-hours contract must not be a barrier to successfully completing an apprenticeship. We will monitor working hours' data and patterns of behaviour to ensure that sufficient regular training and on- and off-the-job activity is done to ensure successful completion of the apprenticeship, regardless of the number of hours worked. We reserve the right to take action where alternative working patterns are not managed appropriately leading to a reduction in the quality of the apprenticeship.
- P51. When an apprentice changes their framework or standard, transfers between providers or returns after a break in learning, you must have evidence that the total amount of time spent on their apprenticeship meets the minimum duration funding rule for the continued apprenticeship.
- P52. If they start a new apprenticeship, previous durations do not apply in meeting the minimum duration requirements.

Who can be funded?

- P53. You are responsible for checking the eligibility of the individual at the start of their apprenticeship programme and can only use funds in the employer's digital account or government-employer co-investment for those who are eligible. You must retain evidence of the individual's eligibility.
- P54. To use funds in the employer's digital account or government-employer co-investment, the individual must:
- 54.1. start their apprenticeship after the last Friday in June of the academic year in which they have their 16th birthday
 - 54.2. be able to complete the apprenticeship within the time they have available; if you know an individual is unable to complete the apprenticeship in the time they have available, they must not be funded
 - 54.3. not be enrolled on another apprenticeship at the same time as any new apprenticeship they start
 - 54.4. not be asked to contribute financially to the direct cost of learning or assessment (this includes where an apprentice leaves their programme early; employers must not claim training or assessment costs back from ex-apprentices.)
 - 54.5. not use a student loan to pay for their apprenticeship (where an individual transfers to an apprenticeship from a full-time further education or higher

education course, and this course has been funded by a student loan, this loan must be terminated)

54.6. spend at least 50% of their working hours in England over the duration of the apprenticeship (Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own funding arrangements. You must develop arrangements with the relevant devolved administration if you are planning to deliver apprenticeships to individuals who do not spend at least 50% of their working hours in England over the duration of their apprenticeship in England, including time spent on off-the-job training.)

54.7. have the right to work in England

54.8. be one of the following:

54.8.1. a citizen of a country within the European Economic Area (EEA) (including other countries determined within the EEA or those with bilateral agreements), or have the right of abode in the UK, and have been ordinarily resident in the EEA (including other countries determined within the EEA or those with bilateral agreements), for at least the previous three years on the first day of learning

54.8.2. a non-EEA citizen with permission from the UK government to live in the UK, (not for educational purposes) and have been ordinarily resident in the UK for at least the previous three years before the start of learning

P55. Annex A of this document includes further rules on individuals with unusual eligibility status as well as the list of all the countries and territories in the European Economic Area (EEA).

P56. As an exception, we will also allow the following individuals to be funded from an employer's digital account or using government-employer co-investment.

56.1. Armed forces and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel to undertake a statutory English apprenticeship wherever they are based in the United Kingdom.

56.2. Members of other nations' armed forces stationed in England and their family members, where the family member has a right to work in the United Kingdom, if the armed forces' individual has been ordinarily resident in England for three years. We will not fund family members that stay outside of England.

56.3. Apprentices whose occupation involves significant travel outside of the UK as part of their job (such as in travel or tourism) or work offshore (such as on an oil platform) and they have an identified registered work location in England. You must not claim for the additional expense of delivering learning outside of England.

P57. You must not claim funding for individuals who do not meet the eligibility criteria set out in this document unless they are eligible under the Fees and Awards Regulations 2007 Act (as amended). You must not claim for individuals who:

57.1. are here illegally

- 57.2. are resident in the United Kingdom on a Tier 4 (general) student visa unless they are eligible through meeting any other of the categories described above
 - 57.3. are non-EEA citizens in the United Kingdom on holiday, with or without a visa
 - 57.4. have overstayed their immigration or visitor visa
 - 57.5. are non-EEA citizens and are a family member of a person granted a Tier 4 visa, have been given immigration permission to stay in the UK and have not been ordinarily resident in the UK for the previous three years on the first day of learning
 - 57.6. are ordinarily resident in the Channel Islands or Isle of Man, unless they are also ordinarily resident within England
 - 57.7. have a biometric residence permit or residence permit imposing a study prohibition or restriction on the individual
- P58. Where you are using funds from an employer's digital account you must have confirmation from the employer that the apprentice is employed by that employer or a [connected company or charity](#) as defined by HMRC.
- P59. Any eligible individual can be funded to undertake an apprenticeship at a higher level than a qualification they already hold, including a previous apprenticeship.
- P60. We will fund an apprentice to undertake an apprenticeship at the same or lower level than a qualification they already hold, if the apprenticeship will allow the individual to acquire substantive new skills and you can evidence that the content of the training is materially different from any prior qualification or a previous apprenticeship. More information is detailed in paragraph 207.26.
- P61. The age of the apprentice on the day they start their apprenticeship will be used for all age-based eligibility criteria for that apprenticeship.
- P62. An apprentice's eligibility will not change during the apprenticeship, unless their employment status changes. (Please see paragraphs 196 to 197.)
- P63. You must reassess an individual for any new apprenticeship.
- P64. If an apprentice becomes unemployed or self-employed during the apprenticeship, this will make their apprenticeship and funding ineligible at that point and you must report them as having withdrawn from the apprenticeship on the ILR. If the apprentice has been made redundant through no fault of their own, please see paragraphs 196 and 197.
- P65. If an apprentice is made redundant through no fault of their own, we will continue to fund them even if they cannot find another employer. Apprentices who are made redundant within six months of the planned end date will be funded completely. Apprentices who are made redundant more than six months from the planned end date will be funded for 12 weeks. (Please see paragraph 197.)

Apprentices with learning difficulties and disabilities

- P66. We will provide learning support for apprentices to help with learning that affects their ability to continue and complete their apprenticeship. This can be claimed up to the learning actual end-date. Learning support should be claimed by a provider to meet the costs of putting in place a reasonable adjustment as part of the Equality Act 2010.
- P67. Learning support must not be used to deal with everyday difficulties that are not directly associated with an apprenticeship.
- P68. You must:
- 68.1. carry out a thorough assessment to identify the support the apprentice needs
 - 68.2. deliver support to meet the apprentice's identified needs, and review progress and continuing needs, as appropriate
 - 68.3. record all outcomes in the evidence pack and keep evidence of the assessment of the needs
 - 68.4. report in the ILR that an apprentice has a learning support need
- P69. Learning support is earned at a fixed monthly rate, which should be enough to cover your costs. If the support cost exceeds that earned from the fixed monthly rate, and you provide evidence of this, you can claim excess learning support using the earnings adjustment statement (EAS). You can find further information on the EAS on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).
- P70. You must promptly claim for learning support through the ILR and the EAS. We will not pay you for claims from a previous funding year if you do not claim on time.
- P71. The maximum value of learning support each year claimed through the monthly rate and excess learning support claimed through the EAS is £19,000. If learning support costs for an apprentice exceed this maximum, you will need to complete the exceptional learning support (ELS) forms so we can authorise you to claim exceptional learning support. You can access the exceptional learning support cost form on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).
- P72. To claim ELS for an apprentice aged 19 to 24 without an education, health and care plan (EHC plan), you must confirm why the individual does not have an EHC plan. This should be a letter or email from the apprentice's local authority stating the reason(s) why the individual does not need an EHC plan.

Apprenticeship training agency (ATA)

- P73. An ATA is an organisation whose main business is employing apprentices who are made available to employers for a fee. They must:
- 73.1. be set up as a distinct legal entity so that apprentices can have employment contracts with the ATA
 - 73.2. report that the apprentice is employed by an ATA in the ILR
- P74. An ATA must follow our ATA framework. You can find information on ATAs on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

- P75. Apprentices employed through an ATA should comply with the requirements set out in paragraphs 27 to 30 regarding the requirement for a genuine job role. If the job is with a third party, the cost of wages may be met from that employer, however the wages must be paid by the ATA.
- P76. Where the apprentice is employed by a levy-paying ATA they must follow the rules set out in [Apprenticeship funding: rules and guidance for levy-paying employers](#).
- P77. Group training associations that offer an ATA service to employers must follow ATA-specific rules.

What can be funded?

- P78. You must make sure that the apprenticeship is eligible for funds in the employer's digital account or government-employer co-investment before the individual starts. The [Hub](#) contains details of eligible apprenticeships. Apprentices can only be enrolled against an apprenticeship standard once we have approved and published the assessment plan on [GOV.UK](#) and assigned the apprenticeship to a funding band.
- P79. Funds from an employer's digital account or government-employer co-investment must only be used for activity directly related to the apprenticeship. These funds must only be used to pay for training and assessment, including end-point assessment, to attain an apprenticeship that is eligible for funding up to the limit of the funding band. This includes the following.
- 79.1. Off-the-job training, including the costs associated with mandatory qualifications, through an externally-contracted provider or evidenced costs for employer-provider delivery.
 - 79.2. Planned on-programme assessment (progress reviews) and the formal end-point assessment costs (only as agreed between the employer and the apprentice assessment organisation) including any costs associated with the completion certification for the apprenticeship.
 - 79.3. Distance, online or blended learning relating to the off-the-job training element of an apprenticeship.
 - 79.4. Materials (non-capital items) used in the delivery of the apprenticeship framework or standard. By materials (non-capital items) we mean the equipment or supplies necessary to enable a particular learning activity to happen. These items would not normally have a lifespan beyond the individual apprenticeship being funded.
 - 79.5. Any administration directly linked to the training and assessment, including end-point assessment. This includes costs relating to the development of teaching materials, lesson planning, the processing of the ILR and quality assurance.
 - 79.6. Funding to re-take mandatory qualifications or the end-point assessment, providing additional learning takes place.
 - 79.7. Accommodation costs for learning delivered through residential modules where the residential learning is a requirement for all apprentices. Any

costs for residential modules must represent value for money.

- 79.8. Costs of an apprentice taking part in a skills competition if the employer and provider have agreed that participation in the competition directly contributes to helping that individual achieve the apprenticeship standard.
- P80. The costs of taking part in any of the above activities must be included in the negotiated price of training and end-point assessment, agreed between the employer, provider and apprentice assessment organisation. If this means the total price exceeds the maximum of the funding band, then the employer must pay in full the difference between the band maximum and the agreed price.
- P81. Any of the eligible costs outlined in paragraph 79 can be bought in from a third party and we will fund them. Funds from an employer's digital account or government co-investment must not be used to fund other services from a third party.

What cannot be funded

- P82. Funds in an employer's digital account or government-employer co-investment must not be used for any of the following.
- 82.1. Enrolment, induction, prior assessment, initial diagnostic testing or similar activity.
 - 82.2. Travel costs for apprentices under any circumstances.
 - 82.3. Apprentices' wages.
 - 82.4. Personal protective clothing and safety equipment required by the apprentice to carry out their day-to-day work.
 - 82.5. Off-the-job training delivered only by distance learning, although you can include online and other blended learning activity as part of the delivery of an apprenticeship.
 - 82.6. Any training, optional modules, educational trips or trips to professional events in excess of those required need to achieve the apprenticeship framework or meet the knowledge, skills and behaviours of the apprenticeship standard.
 - 82.7. Training, assessment, exams or tests in any skills and knowledge solely and specifically required to acquire licences to practise, or the certification of any licence to practise, where it is a legal (or statutory) requirement for all practitioners to obtain a licence which confirms the licence-holder meets prescribed standards of competence, including situations in which it is unlawful to carry out a specified range of activities for pay without first having obtained a licence. This applies even where such a licence is required in the apprenticeship standard and the assessment plan.
 - 82.8. End point assessment costs incurred by the training provider but not included in the price agreed between the employer and the apprentice assessment organisation.
 - 82.9. English and maths up to level 2; this is funded separately.

- 82.10. Repeating the same regulated qualification where the apprentice has previously achieved it unless it is a requirement of the apprenticeship or for any GCSE where the apprentice has not achieved grade C, or 4, or higher.
- 82.11. Re-sits for mandatory qualifications or the end-point assessment needed for the apprenticeship where no additional learning is required.
- 82.12. Registration and examination (including certification) costs for non-mandatory qualifications (qualifications that are not specifically listed in the standard).
- 82.13. Accommodation costs where the apprentice is resident away from their home base, because of the requirements of their day-to-day work or because this is convenient for the employer or provider. Residential costs associated with non-mandatory qualifications are also excluded.
- 82.14. Capital purchases including lease agreements. Capital purchases are long-term assets which would have a lifespan beyond the apprenticeship being funded, such as land, buildings, machinery and ICT equipment.
- 82.15. Maintenance of capital purchases. This includes vehicle parts and labour, insurance and MOT.
- 82.16. Time spent by employees/managers supporting or mentoring apprentices, or the time of other employed staff arranging training support, except where this is directly linked to the training and assessment, including end-point assessment. For example, we would not expect to pay for any time spent by the apprentice's line manager for any of these activities.
- 82.17. Specific services not related to the delivery and administration of the apprenticeship. This includes the recruitment and continuing professional development of staff involved in apprenticeships, company inductions, managing agents and those providing a brokerage service to an employer.

P83. You can only use funds in the employer's digital account to pay for apprenticeship training and assessment for apprentices employed by that employer or a connected company or charity.

P84. Where an apprentice is employed by a non-levy-paying ATA, the ATA will be able to access support for training and assessment through government and employer co-investment.

Additional payments

P85. You and the employer will receive a payment towards the additional cost associated with training if, at the start of the apprenticeship, the apprentice is:

85.1. aged between 16 and 18 years old (or 15 years of age if the apprentice's 16th birthday is between the last Friday of June and 31 August)

85.2. aged between 19 and 24 years old and has either an EHC plan provided by

their local authority or has been in the care of their local authority as defined in paragraph 87

- P86. You will also receive a payment if, at the start of the apprenticeship, the apprentice is undertaking an apprenticeship framework and is recorded on the ILR as having a postcode prior to enrolment, listed within the 27% most deprived areas of the country according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015.
- P87. A child in care is defined as:
- 87.1. an eligible child - a young person who is 16 or 17 and who has been looked after by the local authority/Health and Social Care Trust for at least a period of 13 weeks since the age of 14, and who is still looked after
 - 87.2. a relevant child - a young person who is 16 or 17 who has left care after their 16th birthday and before leaving care was an eligible child
 - 87.3. a former relevant child - a young person who is aged between 18 and 21 (up to their 25th birthday if they are in education or training) who, before turning 18, was either an eligible or a relevant child, or both
- P88. Before any apprenticeship starts, you must have evidence that you are eligible for these payments in respect of each apprentice. You must check this and either the employer, or the apprentice, must provide you with evidence to keep in the evidence pack.
- P89. Where these payments are for apprentices aged between 19 and 24 years old at the start of their apprenticeship (please see paragraph 85.2), you must include approval from the apprentice to inform the employer that they have an EHC plan or that they have been in the care of their local authority and either:
- 89.1. a signed, original declaration(s) from the apprentice to confirm they are a care leaver
 - 89.2. or evidence of an EHC plan
- P90. These payments will be paid as follows:
- 90.1. 90 days after the apprentice starts 50% will be paid
 - 90.2. 365 days after the apprentice starts the remaining 50% will be paid
- P91. You will also receive the additional payments due to the employer and you must pass these on in full to the employer within 30 working days of receiving this funding from us.
- P92. Where an apprentice is employed by an ATA, any applicable additional payments must be paid to the ATA.

Extra support for small employers

- P93. The government will fund all of the apprenticeship training costs, up to the maximum value of the funding band for the apprenticeship, for employers employing fewer than 50 people, if on the first day of the apprenticeship, the apprentice is:
- 93.1. aged between 16 and 18 years old (or 15 years old if the apprentice's 16th

birthday is between the last Friday of June and 31 August)

93.2. aged between 19 and 24 years old and either has:

93.2.1. an EHC plan provided by their local authority

93.2.2. or has been in the care of their local authority as defined in paragraph 87

- P94. You must not request any employer contribution (please see paragraphs 168 to 173) to the cost of an apprenticeship up to the maximum value of the funding band if an employer employing fewer than 50 people recruits an eligible apprentice.
- P95. If the price agreed between you and the employer is above the maximum value of the funding band for the apprenticeship, the employer must pay in full the difference between the band maximum and the agreed price. This cannot be funded from an employer's digital account.
- P96. Before any apprenticeship starts, you must have evidence that the apprentice and employer are eligible for the waiving of the employer contribution. The employer must provide evidence that they employed an average of 49 or fewer employees in the 365 days before the apprentice was recruited using the calculation set out in paragraph 47.3, and you must keep this in the evidence pack.
- P97. We define the number of employees as the number of people with a contract of employment. This must be calculated using the average number of employees with a contract of employment in the 365 days before the apprentice is recruited. If the average number of employees is 49 and the recruitment of apprentices takes this number to 50, the employer will still be eligible to receive this extra support. However, if the average number of employees is 50 and the recruitment of apprentices takes this number to 51, the employer will not be eligible to receive this extra support.

Support for English and maths training

- P98. We will fund apprentices to achieve qualifications in English or maths (or both), if they do not already meet the required standard (please see below). This will be paid in full to you by the SFA at the rate we set, and will not be deducted from the employer's digital account or require employer co-investment.
- P99. You can claim funding for apprentices who have not previously attained a GCSE grade A* to C (or 4 to 9) in English or maths on the day they start the following qualifications.
- 99.1. GCSE English language or maths.
- 99.2. Functional skills English or maths at level 2.
- P100. We will fund functional skills English or maths at level 1 or below if you have conducted a thorough initial assessment using current assessment tools based on the national literacy and numeracy standards and core curriculum that shows the apprentice needs to study a lower level before being able to achieve their level 2.
- P101. In exceptional circumstances, we will fund:
- 101.1. Re-takes of English and maths qualifications to achieve the required

standard and where apprentices receive further teaching. We will monitor provider behaviour to identify where providers continue to claim for further attempts of English and maths to financially benefit from the system and will take action where this does not provide value for money.

101.2. [Approved 'stepping-stone' qualifications](#) (including components, where applicable) where an apprentice will need significant, additional numeracy and literacy skills to reach the level reasonably expected to begin a level 1 in English or maths.

101.3. Ofqual-regulated and SFA-approved level 1 and level 2 awards and certificates in British Sign Language (BSL) as an alternative to functional skills English for apprentices whose first language is BSL.

P102. Apprentices studying an Advanced Early Years Education apprenticeship, must achieve the English and maths requirements through GCSE or international GCSE. We will not fund functional skills or other alternative qualifications for these apprentices.

P103. Any English and maths requirements of the apprenticeship that are in addition to the minimum standards set out above, must be funded within the funding band assigned to the apprenticeship and will be funded from the employer's digital account or through government-employer co-investment. Alternatively, they can be funded above the funding band and paid for in full by the employer; they cannot be funded from an employer's digital account.

P104. For level 2 apprenticeships where level 2 English or maths are not required for the apprenticeship and the apprentice does not already hold acceptable qualifications (see published list) apprentices must:

104.1. achieve a functional skills qualification of at least level 1 English and maths before taking the end-point assessment or achieving an apprenticeship framework

104.2. start, continue to study and take the test for level 2 English and maths before they complete their apprenticeship: they do not have to achieve English and maths to complete their apprenticeship

P105. For apprenticeships at level 3 and above, or where level 2 English and maths are a mandatory part of the framework and the apprentice does not already hold acceptable qualifications (please see published list):

105.1. apprentices must achieve level 2 functional skills or GCSE qualifications grade A* to C (or 4 to 9) in English and maths before taking the end-point assessment or achieving an apprenticeship framework

P106. If the employer ceases trading or the apprentice is made redundant, the apprentice is allowed to continue with their English and maths up to and including level 2. You can continue to claim funds at the published apprenticeship English and maths rate.

P107. An apprentice must not be funded from the adult education budget for English or maths.

End-point assessments

- P108. End-point assessment is a holistic and independent assessment of the knowledge, skills and behaviours which have been learnt throughout an apprenticeship standard. The requirements for end-point assessment are set out in the assessment plan for the specific standard. Frameworks have different assessment arrangements and do not require end-point assessment.
- P109. Apprentices will not be able to achieve an apprenticeship standard without satisfying all the requirements of the assessment plan, including the end-point assessment.
- P110. An apprentice can only take the end-point assessment once they have met the minimum duration of an apprenticeship, satisfied the gateway requirements set out in the assessment plan and their employer (in consultation with the training provider) is content they have attained sufficient skills, knowledge and behaviours.
- P111. The employer must select an apprentice assessment organisation to deliver the end-point assessment from the [Register of apprentice assessment organisations](#) (RoAAO) and agree a price with this organisation for the end-point assessment. Only those organisations listed on the RoAAO will be eligible to be funded.
- P112. Although you will be involved in arrangements for end-point assessment, the assessment itself must be independent. The end-point assessment requirements are set out in the assessment plan for the standard. Some assessment plans give the employer and the provider specific roles but providers who have delivered the training cannot make end-point assessment judgement for that same group of apprentices.
- P113. The only exception to this rule is any standard identified as an 'integrated standard'. The apprentice assessment organisation in these cases may also be the provider.
- P114. You must contract with the apprentice assessment organisation that has been selected by the employer. You must have a written agreement in place with this assessment organisation and make payment to them for conducting the end-point assessment. The written agreement must set out the arrangements for end-point assessment, including arrangements for any re-takes and payments.
- P115. You must ensure that the price you agree with the employer for the apprenticeship includes the amount the employer has agreed with the assessment organisation for end-point assessment. This includes the cost of external quality assurance, which involves an external body (as named in the assessment plan) ensuring consistency of quality and approach to end-point assessment against a particular standard, regardless of which apprentice assessment organisation has carried it out. You must ensure that you engage actively with any request for information from the external body, where applicable.
- P116. Costs of end-point assessment will vary but we expect that it should not usually be more than 20% of the total agreed price for delivering the apprenticeship training and assessment.
- P117. The assessment costs include any costs related to external quality assurance of the end-point assessment.
- P118. The end-point assessment can only be taken after the minimum duration has been completed (please see paragraph 39). You must ensure that the entire duration of the apprenticeship standard for both training and end-point assessment is recorded on the ILR

as a minimum of 372 days to be eligible for funding.

- P119. You must keep evidence of payments made to the apprentice assessment organisation for conducting the end-point assessment.

Contracting and subcontracting

Main providers directly delivering training or on-programme assessment

- P120. You can only be funded for apprenticeship delivery to employers who do not pay the apprenticeship levy if you have a contract for service – apprenticeships, with us.
- P121. Funding for all elements of each apprenticeship will be routed through a single provider that the employer has chosen. This includes English and maths.
- P122. At the outset of each apprenticeship, a main provider and employer will agree a plan for its delivery. You must directly deliver some of the apprenticeship training and/or on-programme assessment associated with each employer's apprenticeship programme. By apprenticeship programme we mean the apprentices that are being trained for the employer that has chosen you. The volume of training and/or on-programme assessment that you directly deliver for each employer must have some substance and must not be a token amount to satisfy this rule. It must not be limited to a brief input at the start of each employer's programme or involve delivery to just a few of a large number of apprentices.

Agreeing the use of subcontractors with employers

- P123. You must take your own legal advice about the impact of Public Contracts Regulations 2015 on your recruitment of delivery subcontractors and have this advice available for inspection by us and employers on request.
- P124. You can use delivery subcontractors to complement your own delivery if requested by an employer and agreed at the start of an apprenticeship. Delivery subcontractors can deliver full or part-apprenticeship frameworks and standards.
- P125. You must only use delivery subcontractors that satisfy one of the following three criteria.
- 125.1. They are on the published register of apprenticeship training providers and have applied by the main or supporting application routes.
 - 125.2. They are the apprentice's employer or a [connected company](#) or charity as defined by HMRC and are on the published register of apprenticeship training providers, having applied through the employer-provider application route.
 - 125.3. They are not on the published register of apprenticeship training providers but will deliver less than £100,000 of apprenticeship training and on-programme assessment under contract across all main providers and employer-providers between 1 May 2017 and 31 March 2018.
- P126. You must not agree to the use of delivery subcontractors with an employer if you do not have knowledge, skills and experience of contracting with, and managing, delivery subcontractors.

- P127. You must carry out your own due diligence checks on potential delivery subcontractors. The process and results must be available for inspection by us and employers. You must not use a potential delivery subcontractor's presence on the register of apprenticeship training providers, or any other public register or database, as an indicator that they are suitable to deliver to your, or the employer's, specific requirements.
- P128. You must not agree with an employer the use of a delivery subcontractor that you assess is unsuitable, or whose quality of delivery is demonstrably inadequate, even where the employer decides not to work with you as a consequence.
- P129. You must have robust procedures in place to ensure you do not inadvertently fund extremist organisations through the subcontracting of apprenticeship training and/or on-programme assessment.
- P130. You must not agree the use of any delivery subcontractor where this would require you to subcontract apprenticeship training and/or on-programme assessment to a second level. All of your delivery subcontractors must be contracted directly by you.
- P131. You must maintain the relationship with each employer at all times. You must not allow a delivery subcontractor to lead that relationship.

Your written agreement with each employer

- P132. If you and an employer agree the use of delivery subcontractors, you must have an up-to-date written agreement in place with each employer that sets out the following for the delivery of their apprenticeship programme.
- 132.1. The apprenticeship training and/or on-programme assessment that you will directly deliver.
 - 132.2. The amount of funding you will retain for your direct delivery.
 - 132.3. The apprenticeship training and/or on-programme assessment that each delivery subcontractor will contribute to the employer's apprenticeship programme.
 - 132.4. The amount of funding you will pay each delivery subcontractor for their contribution.
 - 132.5. The amount of funding you will retain to manage and monitor each delivery subcontractor.
 - 132.6. The support you will provide each delivery subcontractor in exchange for the amount of funding you will retain.
 - 132.7. The monitoring you will undertake to ensure the quality of the apprentice training and/or on-programme assessment you have contracted your delivery subcontractors to carry out.
 - 132.8. Any actual or perceived conflict of interest between you and any delivery subcontractors. For example, where you and a delivery subcontractor are part of the same group, share common directors or senior

personnel, or where you will benefit financially from using a particular delivery subcontractor.

Delivery of apprenticeship training and on-programme assessment by delivery subcontractors

- P133. You are responsible for all of the actions of your delivery subcontractors that are connected to, or arise out of, all the apprenticeship training and on-programme assessment that you subcontract.
- P134. You carry overall responsibility for the quality of apprenticeship training and on-programme assessment undertaken by your delivery subcontractors.
- P135. You must manage and monitor all of your delivery subcontractors to ensure that high-quality delivery is taking place that meets our funding rules.
- P136. You must carry out a regular and substantial programme of quality-assurance checks on the apprenticeship training and on-programme assessment provided by delivery subcontractors, including visits at short notice and face-to-face interviews with staff and apprentices. The programme must:
- 136.1. include whether the apprentices exist and are eligible
 - 136.2. involve direct observation of initial guidance, assessment and delivery of training and/or on-programme assessment
- P137. Your findings must be consistent with these funding rules, your expectations and the subcontractor's records. You must report any instances to us where this is not the case.
- P138. If any of your delivery subcontractors undergoes a change of circumstances that affects its ability to continue to deliver under a subcontract with you, you must make alternative delivery arrangements for each apprentice affected by this, in agreement with their employer. Change of circumstances include going into liquidation, administration, key delivery staff leaving the organisation, or removal from the register of apprenticeship training providers. The change of delivery arrangements must be recorded in your written agreement with the employer.

Contracting with delivery subcontractors

- P139. You must have a legally binding contract with each delivery subcontractor.
- P140. You must obtain an annual report from an external auditor if the total apprenticeship contracts with your delivery subcontractors will exceed £100,000 in any one financial year. The report must provide assurance on the arrangements to manage and control your delivery subcontractors. The report must comply with any guidance issued by us. You must supply us with a certificate signed by the external auditor and an authorised signatory to confirm you have received a report that provides satisfactory assurance. We may ask you to provide a copy of the full report.
- P141. Your contract with each delivery subcontractor must specify the following.
- 141.1. They must keep to our funding rules.
 - 141.2. They must provide you with ILR data so that your data returns to us

accurately reflect delivery information.

- 141.3. They must give us, and any other person nominated by us, access to their premises and to all documents related to their delivery of apprenticeships.
- 141.4. They must give you sufficient evidence to allow you to:
 - 141.4.1. assess their performance against Ofsted's Common Inspection Framework or the requirements of the QAA Quality Code
 - 141.4.2. incorporate the evidence they provide into your self-assessment report
 - 141.4.3. guide the judgements and grades within your self-assessment report
- 141.5. They must always have suitably qualified staff available to provide apprenticeship training and/or on-programme assessment.
- 141.6. They must co-operate with you to ensure that there is continuity of learning for apprentices if the subcontract ends for any reason.
- 141.7. They must tell you if evidence of irregular financial or delivery issues arises. This could include, but is not limited to, non-delivery of training when funds have been paid, sanctions imposed by an awarding organisation, allegations of fraud, an inadequate Ofsted grade, not meeting relevant QAA Quality Code indicators, allegations or complaints by apprentices, employers, staff members or other relevant parties.
- 141.8. They must not use our funding to make bids for, or claims from, any European funding on their own behalf or on our behalf.
- 141.9. They must not use payments made as match funding for ESF projects.

Special conditions for subcontracting to employer-providers

- P142. Organisations who have successfully applied through the employer-provider route of the register of apprenticeship training providers are only eligible to deliver apprenticeship training and/or on-programme assessment to apprentices employed by them or a company or charity connected to them [as defined by HMRC](#). You must ensure any employer-providers who are delivery subcontractors to you meet this requirement.
- P143. Employer-providers must evidence the actual costs of delivery of apprenticeship training and on-programme assessment (please see the [Apprenticeship funding: rules for employer-providers](#)).

Special conditions for subcontracting to 'supporting' providers

- P144. Delivery subcontractors who have successfully applied to the supporting application route of the register of apprenticeship training providers must not receive more than £500,000 of apprenticeship funding for their delivery from 1 April to 31 March each year (for the first year this is 1 May 2017 to 31 March 2018).

- P145. You must ensure that you are not one of a number of organisations making payments to any 'supporting' provider that exceed £500,000 in any one year. We will place restrictions on your future use of delivery subcontractors if this happens.
- P146. We will permanently exclude any provider that has applied to the register of apprenticeship training providers through the supporting application route where they allow their funding to exceed this total in any one year.

Special conditions for subcontracting to organisations not on the register of apprenticeship training providers

- P147. Organisations who are not on the register of apprenticeship training providers must not receive more than £100,000 of apprenticeship funding for their delivery from 1 April to 31 March each year (for the first year this is 1 May 2017 to 31 March 2018).
- P148. You must ensure that you are not one of a number of organisations making payments to any organisation not on the register of apprenticeship training providers where the total apprenticeship funding they receive exceeds £100,000 in any one year. We will place restrictions on your future use of delivery subcontractors if this occurs.
- P149. We will permanently exclude any organisation from delivering apprenticeship training as a subcontractor where they allow their funding to exceed this total in any one year.

Reporting your use of delivery subcontractors to us

- P150. You must provide a fully completed Delivery Subcontractor Declaration form by the dates we will give you. This will be at least twice between 1 May 2017 and 31 March 2018. If you do not return the form on time, we will suspend your payments. If you do not subcontract, you must still provide a nil return form to confirm this.

Disputes and issue resolution between the employer and main provider

- P151. You are responsible for resolving issues and disputes between the employer and your delivery subcontractors. Training providers and assessment organisations must provide employers and apprentices with their written complaints and dispute resolution procedure, policy and process. The first contact point for this must be included in the written agreement and in the commitment statement.
- P152. Agreements entered into by you and the employer are legal agreements and dispute resolution should be in accordance with the terms of the written agreement and ultimately would be enforceable through the courts.
- P153. Apprentices and their employers must be made aware by the main provider that they can contact the apprenticeship helpline regarding apprenticeship concerns, complaints and enquiries. The contact number and website must also be included in the employer's written agreement and in the apprentice's commitment statement.

Paying for an apprenticeship

The price of an apprenticeship

- P154. Employers and main providers must agree a price for the total cost of each

apprenticeship, including the training costs and any subcontracted training. The price for apprenticeship standards must include the cost of the end-point assessment which the employer must agree with the apprentice assessment organisation. The negotiated price of apprenticeship frameworks must include on-programme assessment.

- 154.1. You must account for prior learning when agreeing a price with the employer. You must reduce the content, and price, where the individual has prior learning necessary to achieve the apprenticeship. Funds must not be used to pay for skills already attained by the apprentice. You must document how you have assessed the individual's prior learning and include this in the evidence pack (paragraphs 203 to 213).
 - 154.2. You must enter the agreed prices for training and end-point assessment (where applicable) on to the ILR. Where you and the employer do not know the details of the apprentice assessment organisation at the start of the apprenticeship, you must enter the price for end-point assessment once this has been confirmed.
 - 154.3. The prices entered onto the ILR must not include any VAT which may be charged on employer co-investment.
 - 154.4. If the employer negotiates an overall price that is more than the maximum allowed by the funding band for the chosen apprenticeship, then the employer must pay in full the difference between the band maximum and the agreed total price. This must not be funded from the digital account or co-investment. You may charge VAT on the difference.
- P155. Once the price has been negotiated, we do not expect the total price of the apprenticeship to increase. The only exceptions to this are when there is a change of circumstances or when the end-point assessment cost is not known at the start of the apprenticeship. We will monitor changes of price and patterns of behaviour to identify any fraudulent activity. You can find further information on changes of circumstance in the 'Changes to the apprenticeship, main provider or employer' section (paragraphs 188 to 202) has further detail on changes of circumstances.

When payments are made

- P156. Where the employer's digital account is used to fund training, we will pay 80% of the agreed price up to the maximum value of the funding band, in equal monthly instalments according to the planned duration of the apprenticeship.
- P157. Where apprenticeship training is not funded from the employer's digital account (non-levy payers and levy payers with insufficient funds), we will pay 80% of the government co-investment funding in equal monthly instalments according to the planned duration of the apprenticeship. Our monthly instalments will need to be matched with equivalent employer co-investment payments and evidenced every three months (please see paragraph 168).
- P158. We will pay the remaining balance of the agreed price up to the maximum value of the funding band when the apprentice has undertaken all the learning activity relevant to the apprenticeship, including:
- 158.1. all mandatory elements of the framework

158.2. taking the end-point assessment for standards

P159. Where apprenticeship training is not funded from the employer's digital account, (non-levy payers and levy payers with insufficient funds), to be eligible for the completion payment you must have:

159.1. collected the co-investment from the employer and

159.2. reported the cash value of the employer co-investment on the ILR

P160. You can find detailed information about how funding is calculated in the [Apprenticeship technical funding guide for starts from May 2017](#).

Value added tax (VAT)

P161. Supplies of training which are paid by government funding, including the apprenticeship levy are exempt from VAT. This includes additional payments (please see paragraphs 85 to 92). Prices entered on to the ILR should not include VAT (please see paragraph 164).

P162. You are responsible for determining the VAT treatment on your invoices to employers.

P163. The SFA does not provide advice on VAT. You must always seek your own advice on VAT from HMRC if you are in any doubt about VAT treatment.

P164. If you add VAT to invoices and the employer is VAT registered, the employer may be able to recover that VAT through its VAT returns. In determining the costs of training or end-point assessment, an employer will need to check with you if VAT will be added and verify, internally or with HMRC, if it can be recovered.

Funds in an employer's digital account

P165. Where the employer's digital account is used to fund training and assessment, employers are responsible for recording the required details of the apprenticeship. They can give you permission to enter this information on their behalf. To be funded from an employer's digital account this must correspond with the information recorded on the ILR.

P166. Only the employer can confirm the spending of funds from their digital account. An employer must not delegate this function to you and you must not take on this responsibility.

P167. In certain circumstances we may need to adjust the balance in an employer's digital account as a result of retrospective changes to the amount of apprenticeship levy declared to HMRC. These adjustments could be up or down. An adjustment which reduces the value in their digital account might have affected payments already made to you. Where there would have been insufficient funds in the employer's digital account, we will take responsibility for these payments and the employer will be required to pay co-investment direct to the SFA. We will provide you with details of the co-investment value as you may need this for accounting purposes.

Employer co-investment

- P168. Where apprenticeship training is not funded from the employer's digital account (non-levy paying employers, and levy paying employers with insufficient funds), employers must co-invest 10% of the agreed training cost up to the maximum value of the funding band and 100% where this is above the funding band.
- P169. We will continue to make payments to you provided you record that you have collected the employer's contribution. You must keep evidence that these contributions have been collected.
- P170. We may withhold payments including the final completion payment until all the employer co-investment has been collected.
- 170.1. You will need to invoice employers separately for any employer co-investment, including any VAT.
 - 170.2. You may agree a schedule of co-investment payment with the employer which does not match monthly payments made by us, provided the employer has paid a matching 10% at our three monthly data-points.
- P171. The only exceptions to employer co-investment are for:
- 171.1. English and maths to achieve the required government standard (please see paragraphs 98 to 107)
 - 171.2. where the employer qualifies for small employer support (please see paragraphs 93 to 97)
 - 171.3. any learning support (please see paragraphs 66 to 72)
- P172. At least every three months you must:
- 172.1. have collected the matching co-investment from employers
 - 172.2. report the cash value on the ILR of total employer contributions received from the beginning of the apprenticeship to the end of the quarter on the ILR in June, September, December and March
- P173. The employer co-investment must be a transfer of funding visible in your financial systems. This will typically be in the form of a provider invoice and corresponding employer payment.

Qualifying days for funding

- P174. The apprentice must be in learning for a minimum of 42 days between the learning start date and learning planned end-date before they qualify for funds from an employer's digital account or government-employer co-investment, including learning support.
- P175. Where funding is paid for an apprentice who does not subsequently meet the qualifying period, we will recover the funding from you.

State aid

- P176. Providers who receive funds from, and funds in, an employer's digital account and government top-ups to funds in the digital account, government-employer co-investment and additional payments, do not fall within the scope of state aid control from 1 May 2017 to 31 March 2018.
- P177. Receipt of the AGE grant by employers and the waiving of the employer contribution for small employers, (please see annex E) are subject to state aid regulations.

Recovery of funds

- P178. We will review and monitor whether the training you provide represents good value for money. If we consider that the funds in an employer's digital account or government-employer co-investment we have provided is significantly more than the cost of the education and training, we may reduce the amount of funding we pay you after consulting with you.
- P179. We may take action including to recover all or part of government funding from you where we are satisfied that there has been a breach of the funding rules. This includes where claims are made for funding through the employer's digital account, government co-investment or additional payments to which you and/or the employer is not entitled.

Delivering the apprenticeship

The commitment statement between the employer, apprentice and main provider

- P180. Before the apprenticeship starts you must ensure that the apprentice and their employer hold a signed copy of the commitment statement setting out how they will support the achievement of the apprenticeship. It must be signed by the apprentice, their employer and the main provider, and all three parties must keep a current signed and dated version. This must be retained with, or in, the written agreement between the employer and main provider, which must be the contract for services between the provider and employer where funded from an employer's digital account.
- P181. Apprentices who are aged between 15 and 17 when they start an apprenticeship must have their commitment statement signed by a parent or legal guardian. This applies until they reach their 18th birthday.
- P182. The commitment statement must set out:
- 182.1. the planned content and schedule for eligible training (and must also include end-point assessment if they are undertaking a standard)
 - 182.2. what is expected and offered by the employer, main provider (and any delivery subcontractors) and the apprentice to achieve the apprenticeship
 - 182.3. provide a short summary, typically no longer than two to three pages, and must include the following as a minimum:

182.3.1.details of the apprenticeship, including start and end-dates for the apprenticeship training and (where applicable) end-point assessment and key milestones for mandatory or other qualification achievements

182.3.2.details on which elements are eligible for funding from the employer's digital account or government-employer co-investment and necessary to meet any end-point assessment, those which are extra and not eligible for co-investment but will be fully funded by the employer, and those fully funded by the SFA including English and maths

182.3.3.a list of all organisations delivering the training including English and maths and the apprentice assessment organisation (where applicable) (We recognise that in the early months of the new funding system, not all apprentice assessment organisations will be known at the start of the apprenticeship. The commitment statement must be updated to include these details as soon as they have been confirmed.)

182.3.4.roles and responsibilities for the employer, provider and apprentice and arrangements for how the three parties will work together; this must include contact details and the expected commitment from each party to ensure the smooth running and day-to-day delivery of the apprenticeship, including, for example:

- for an apprentice, attendance and study time
- for an employer, commitment to wages and time off to study in the working day
- for a provider, support and guidance available and how to access this

182.3.5.the process for resolving any queries or complaints regarding the apprenticeship, including quality; this must include details of the escalation route within the main provider's own organisation and the escalation process to the SFA through the apprenticeship helpline

Starting, participating, completing and leaving

P183. You must:

183.1. have evidence that learning took place and that the apprentice was not certificated for prior knowledge

183.2. retain evidence that the apprentice has completed their apprenticeship

183.3. where applicable, apply for, and give, apprentices certificates from awarding organisations for achieving a learning aim, and evidence this in the evidence pack

183.4. report and accurately complete all ILR fields for an apprentice

183.5. give accurate unique learner number (ULN) information to the apprenticeship service, awarding organisations and (where required) apprentice assessment organisations and ensure all information used to register apprentices is correct (you can find more information on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk))

P184. If an apprentice leaves without completing their apprenticeship, the last date of learning, including the apprenticeship programme learning aim, is the date you have evidence the apprentice was still in learning for any learning that is part of their apprenticeship.

P185. Apprentices who start their programme before 1 May 2017 must not be withdrawn and re-started onto the same apprenticeship, or another apprenticeship at the same level in a similar subject after 1 May 2017 solely to enable them to be funded by the new funding system. If the apprentice was on a break in learning, they can enrol on a new apprenticeship in the new funding system if it is in their best interests. We will monitor any breaks in learning during this period to identify any abuse of this exception.

Certification

P186. For frameworks, you must apply for the apprenticeship completion certificate from Apprenticeship Certificates England within three months of completion of learning.

P187. For standards, the apprentice assessment organisation is responsible for claiming the apprenticeship completion certificate from the SFA.

Changes to the apprenticeship, main provider or employer

P188. If any circumstances change that affect any agreement made between you and the employer, you must revise existing agreements or create new agreements. This includes changes to price and apprenticeship eligibility and any updates required to the employer's digital account.

P189. We will monitor take-up of additional payments and unusual patterns of activity to identify any potential fraud or gaming.

P190. The apprentice may take a break in learning where they plan to return and this is agreed with the employer. This could include medical treatment, parental or personal reasons. A short-term absence, such as annual leave, must not be recorded as a break.

P191. We will stop making payments from funds in an employer's digital account or government-employer co-investment if an apprentice has a break in learning.

P192. If an apprentice is on a break in learning when an additional payment is due, the payment will be delayed until the apprentice resumes their apprenticeship and has reached an overall total of 90 or 365 days in learning.

P193. Throughout the apprenticeship any changes of employer or provider, or breaks in learning must be reported to us. You must account for these changes and ensure the minimum duration rules (please see paragraphs 39 to 52) are met.

P194. You can find detailed information on how changes of circumstances affect how funding is calculated in the [apprenticeship technical funding guide for starts from 1 May 2017](#).

P195. Please refer to the [ILR guidance](#) for details of how to record these changes in circumstance on the ILR which you can find on our website. We will update this guidance as new changes of circumstance arise. If you need any further advice, please contact us.

Redundancy

P196. Where apprentices are made redundant, you must:

196.1. make reasonable efforts to find the apprentice a new employer

196.2. record the change in employment status in the ILR

196.3. record apprentices more than six months from their planned end-date as having left learning if a new employer is not found within 12 weeks

P197. Apprentices who are made redundant through no fault of their own, may continue their apprenticeship without being employed under an apprenticeship agreement (please see paragraph 65). In these circumstances:

197.1. you can continue to deliver the apprenticeship as long as all the remaining elements and, for apprenticeship standards, the end-point assessment, can be successfully delivered

197.2. we will fund 100% of the remaining costs of the price agreed between you and the employer up to the funding band maximum where the apprentice is within six months of the planned end-date of their apprenticeship and are unable to find another employer

197.3. we will fund the remaining costs of the price agreed between you and the employer for 12 weeks, up to the funding band maximum, where the apprentice is over six months from the planned end-date of their apprenticeship and are unable to find another employer

197.4. you must support the apprentice through to the end of the apprenticeship, including any assessment

197.5. you must have evidence that you have made reasonable efforts to find the apprentice a new employer

197.6. if the apprentice finds a new employer where they can complete their apprenticeship then the new employer assumes all outstanding liabilities and benefits from that point: you should agree a new price, if required, with the new employer and input this on the ILR

197.7. if the apprentice takes a job with an employer which is not related to their apprenticeship, we will continue to fund them as per paragraphs 197.2 and 197.3

Where training or assessment stops

P198. Where a change of circumstance means that training and/or assessment is no longer being delivered, no further funds from an employer's digital account, government-

employer co-investment or additional payments will be made.

- P199. In these circumstances you must agree with the employer the cost of the training and, where applicable, the end-point assessment delivered to date. You must ensure the employer has paid any mandatory co-investment due for any training or end-point assessment already delivered.
- P200. When a change of circumstance results in over-payment of funds from an employer's digital account or government-employer co-investment, any over-payment must be repaid by you. You must follow the arrangements set out in your agreement with the employer for any over-payment by the employer.
- P201. You must agree with the employer any reimbursement for employer co-investment made for learning paid for, but not undertaken, or learning delivered, but not yet paid up to the employee's leave date, or the date of their break in learning, as needed.
- P202. If any change of circumstances is not included above, you should seek advice from us about what action you should take. Please email servicedesk@sfa.bis.gov.uk.

Summary of action following change in employer, apprentice or provider circumstances

	Scenario	Action to take	What happens to training costs, apprenticeship duration and the funding cap?	What happens to additional payments?
1	Change in price where the employer negotiates a revised training or assessment cost, or assessment cost is added after start of programme	The new price is agreed by both parties. This price is entered on the employer's digital account.	After applying the funding band limit, we will hold 20% of the new total price back as the completion payment and deduct any funding already received. The remainder will be spread equally over the remaining planned duration.	No changes to additional payments
2	Break in learning where the apprentice requires a break in their apprenticeship, for example illness, maternity or other personal reason	<p>The employer must notify the provider that the apprentice will be absent for a period of time.</p> <p>The employer can stop payments through their digital account.</p> <p>If the employer has stopped funding through their digital account, then you will need them to re-activate the apprenticeship in their digital account when the apprentice returns to learning.</p> <p>The provider records the break and restart date in the ILR. When the apprentice resumes learning, the employer and provider should agree a revised price which must be entered on the new programme aim in the</p>	<p>Funding from an employer's digital account or government co-investment stops until apprentice resumes their apprenticeship.</p> <p>Funding is capped across both periods of learning so that the overall earnings do not exceed the funding band maximum.</p> <p>Funding will recommence based on the new start date in the ILR.</p>	All additional payments stop until apprentice resumes their apprenticeship. Any additional payments already made are retained.

	Scenario	Action to take	What happens to training costs, apprenticeship duration and the funding cap?	What happens to additional payments?
		ILR. If a different price had earlier been entered on the employer's digital account, the revised price must also be entered here, on or before the new start date.		
3	<p>The apprentice withdraws from the apprenticeship where the apprentice is no longer employed by the employer and has withdrawn from their programme (not redundancy).</p> <p>Or</p> <p>The apprentice chooses to withdraw prior to completion but remains with the same employer.</p>	<p>The employer must notify the provider that the apprentice has left.</p> <p>The employer can stop payments through their digital account.</p> <p>The provider records the end date on the ILR.</p>	<p>Funding from an employer's digital account or government co-investment stops.</p> <p>The employer co-investment should be reconciled to the date of withdrawal and a balancing payment will be made.</p>	We will stop making further incentive payments but those already made are retained.
4	Change in course where the apprentice starts a new role with the same employer and requires a different apprenticeship programme and the provider remains the same	<p>The employer and provider agree a new price for training and assessment for the new apprenticeship, taking into account relevant learning from the first apprenticeship.</p> <p>The details of the new programme, price and effective date is</p>	<p>Funding from an employer's digital account or government co-investment for the first programme stops.</p> <p>Any employer co-investment for the first programme should be reconciled to the date of transfer and a balancing payment will be made.</p> <p>Funding from an employer's digital account or government</p>	Additional payments are received once for each apprenticeship.

	Scenario	Action to take	What happens to training costs, apprenticeship duration and the funding cap?	What happens to additional payments?
		entered on the digital account.	co-investment for the second programme is made for the new programme Each programme price is capped separately	
5	The employer selects a different main provider where the course remains the same.	The end date for the first provider is recorded in the digital account. The employer agrees a new price with the new main provider. The funding rules on agreeing a price will apply. The new provider, price and effective date is recorded and agreed by both parties in the digital account.	Funding from an employer's digital account or government co-investment to the first provider stops. Payments due to the first provider are reconciled. Funding from an employer's digital account or government co-investment for the second programme is made to the new provider The funding band cap and minimum duration will apply to the total cost across both providers.	Employer continues to receive additional payments. Provider retains any additional payments already made. Any remaining provider additional payments not paid to the original provider can be paid to the new provider. The number of days in learning with the first provider are added to the days in learning with the new provider to calculate when payments are due.
6	The apprentice changes employer but continues the same apprenticeship with the same provider	Where the apprentice is funded by the first employer's the employer can stop payments through their digital account. Where the apprentice is not funded from a digital account, co-investment stops.	Funding from the first employer's digital account stops. Any employer co-investment due from the first employer should be reconciled Funding continues based on agreement with the new employer using the funds in	Additional payments stop for the first employer but they retain any payments already made The number of days in learning with the first employer are added to the days

	Scenario	Action to take	What happens to training costs, apprenticeship duration and the funding cap?	What happens to additional payments?
		<p>The new employer agrees a price with the provider for the remainder of the apprenticeship training and assessment taking into account relevant learning from the first employer. This price should be recorded in the ILR as a 'residual' price.</p> <p>Where the apprentice will be funded by the second employer's digital account, the second employer registers the apprentice and funding starts.</p> <p>Where the apprentice will not be funded from a digital account, co-investment starts.</p> <p>Providers must not draw down funds in an employer's digital account or government co-investment for delivery which the SFA has already paid for with the first employer</p>	<p>their digital accounts or government co-investment.</p> <p>The funding band cap will apply to the total cost across both employers.</p>	<p>in learning with the new employer to calculate when payments are due.</p> <p>Provider additional payments remain unchanged.</p> <p>The small employer co-investment waiver will stop if the second employer is not eligible.</p> <p>For the 16-18 Framework Uplift we will keep a history of amounts earned so far, and spread the remainder over the planned length, with 20% of the new total cost held back for completion.</p>

	Scenario	Action to take	What happens to training costs, apprenticeship duration and the funding cap?	What happens to additional payments?
7	Redundancy – with more than 6 months of programme remaining	<p>The employer stops payments from their digital account.</p> <p>The provider supports the apprentice to find a new job (within 12 weeks).</p> <p>Providers should refer to scenario 6 above when a new employer is found.</p>	<p>Funding from the employer’s digital account stops.</p> <p>Any employer co-investment due from the first employer should be reconciled to the date of redundancy and any differences in employer co-investment received to those due should be repaid to the employer or training provider.</p> <p>The apprentice is funded through 100% government co-investment for up to 12 weeks.</p>	<p>Employer additional payments stop.</p> <p>Provider additional payments remain unchanged.</p>
8	Redundancy – within 6 months of programme end	<p>The employer stops payments from their digital account.</p> <p>The provider supports the apprentice to find a new job if possible.</p> <p>The provider should refer to scenario 6 above when a new employer is found.</p>	<p>Funding from the employer’s digital account stops.</p> <p>Any employer co-investment due from the first employer should be reconciled to the date of redundancy and any differences in employer co-investment received to those due should be repaid to the employer or training provider.</p> <p>The apprentice is funded through 100% government co-investment for the remainder of the programme up to the funding band maximum; or until a suitable new employer is found and a new price negotiated.</p>	<p>Employer additional payments stop.</p> <p>Provider additional payments remain unchanged.</p>

Evidence requirements

Evidence pack

- P203. The evidence pack must contain evidence to support the funding claimed and must be available to us if we need it.
- P204. Evidence in the evidence pack must assure us that the apprentice exists.
- P205. The apprentice and/or employer must confirm the information they provide is correct when it is collected. You must have evidence of this, which can include electronic formats.
- P206. Where information is held centrally, you only need to refer to the source.
- P207. The evidence pack must include the following.
 - 207.1. Details of the negotiated cost agreed between the employer and provider.
 - 207.2. Details of how the 20% 'off-the-job' training, excluding English and maths, will be quantified and delivered.
 - 207.3. Details of how English and maths will be delivered.
 - 207.4. Details of employment including: the name of the employer and the agreed contracted hours of employment, including paid training and 20% 'off-the-job' time, the total planned length of the apprenticeship.
 - 207.5. Written confirmation from the employer that the apprentice will be allowed to complete the apprenticeship within their working hours including English and maths.
 - 207.6. A signed and dated written agreement between you and the employer, updated as required, which must be the contract for services between the provider and employer where funded from an employer's digital account.
 - 207.7. The commitment statement signed and dated by the apprentice, employer and main provider.
 - 207.8. Copies of any state aid declarations for the AGE grant and waiving of the employer contribution for small employers.
 - 207.9. Confirmation of eligibility for where the employer contribution is waived including evidence from the employer that they had an average of 49 or fewer employees with a contract of employment in the 365 days before the apprentice was recruited.

- 207.10. Evidence that the apprentice will spend at least 50% of their working hours in England over the duration of the apprenticeship including time spent on off-the-job training. Where the business footprint is larger than England this could include a rosta for a typical month for the apprentice along with written confirmation from the employer.
- 207.11. A copy of the written apprenticeship agreement or confirmation that the employer has been told about their legal duty for an apprenticeship agreement.
- 207.12. All information reported to us in the ILR and the earnings adjustment statement (EAS), and if it applies, the supporting evidence for the data you report.
- 207.13. Your assessment and evidence of eligibility for funding and a record of what evidence the apprentice has provided.
- 207.14. Confirmation of eligibility for any additional payments including, a signed, original declaration from the apprentice to confirm they are a care leaver, or evidence of an education, health and care plan where the apprentice is aged between 19 and 24 years old.
- 207.15. The apprentice's job role, including any significantly new skills required for a new role, and that they are not enrolled on another apprenticeship at the same time.
- 207.16. All initial assessments for English and maths.
- 207.17. Confirmation that you have accounted for prior learning that affects the learning or the funding of any of the apprenticeship and adjusted the price accordingly. This information could include:
 - 207.17.1. information from the individual's personal learning record
 - 207.17.2. details of previous qualifications including modules/units undertaken compared to the content of the apprenticeship, demonstrating how they are materially different
 - 207.17.3. skills gap analysis, demonstrating the new skills needed by the individual and how the apprenticeship will address these
- 207.18. A description of how you will deliver the apprenticeship and how the apprentice will achieve it.
- 207.19. The supporting evidence about why you have claimed funding and the level of funding for an apprentice, including details of any employer contribution.
- 207.20. Details of any support needs identified, including an assessment and how you will meet these needs.

- 207.21. Where ELS is being claimed for an apprentice aged 19 to 24 without an EHC plan, a letter or email from the apprentice's local authority stating the reason(s) why the individual does not need an EHC plan.
- 207.22. Confirmation that learning has taken place and that records are available.
- 207.23. All records and evidence of completion. This must be available within three months of you reporting it in the ILR.
- 207.24. Details of any subcontractor, clearly identifying who they are. This must match the information reported to us in the ILR.
- 207.25. Details of any apprentice assessment organisation (where applicable), clearly identifying who they are.
- 207.26. Evidence that the apprenticeship leads to substantive new skills and that the learning is materially different where the apprenticeship is at the same level as, or lower level than, prior qualifications. This evidence could include the following.
 - 207.26.1. Information from the individual's personal learning record.
 - 207.26.2. Details of previous qualifications including modules/units undertaken compared to the content of the apprenticeship, demonstrating how they are materially different.
 - 207.26.3. Skills gap analysis, demonstrating the new skills needed by the individual and how the apprenticeship will address these.
- 207.27. Any relevant experience and achievements, both inside and outside their current working role.
- 207.28. The learning and skills they have to carry out while on their apprenticeship, outside of identified qualifications.

Confirmation and signatures

- P208. Where evidence is electronic, you must have wider systems and processes in place to assure you that apprentices exist and are eligible for funds.
- P209. You must keep effective and reliable evidence. You are responsible for making the evidence you hold easily available to us when we need it.

Individualised learner record (ILR)

- P210. You must accurately complete all ILR fields as required in the ILR specification, even if they are not used for funding. Where your data does not support the funding you have claimed, we will take action to get this corrected and could recover funds.

- P211. The ILR must accurately reflect what has happened. You must not report inaccurate information even where you perceive that this would result in a more equitable claim for funding or accurate record of performance.

Self-declarations

- P212. Where a self-declaration is needed, this must state the apprentice or employer's details and describe what is being confirmed.
- P213. If an apprentice self-declares prior attainment, you must check this in the personal learning record (PLR) and query any contradictory information with the apprentice. The PLR will not necessarily override the apprentice's self-declaration. In the event of a missing or incorrect qualification you should refer to the [learner registration bodies \(LRB\) user guide](#).

Annex A - Exceptional eligibility criteria (who we fund)

Exceptional eligibility status

(Please read this together with paragraphs 53 to 65.)

- P214. Where an individual or relevant family member has applied for an extension to, or variation of, their current immigration permission in the UK they will be treated as if they have that leave. This only applies if the application was made before their current permission expired. Their leave continues until the Home Office make a decision on their immigration application.
- P215. An individual or relevant family member, is considered to have the immigration permission that they held when they made their application for an extension, and their eligibility would be based upon this status.
- P216. Any individual with any of the statuses listed below, is eligible to receive funding and are exempt from the three-year residency requirement rule. You must have seen the individual's immigration permission in these circumstances.
- 216.1. Refugee status
 - 216.2. Discretionary leave to enter or remain
 - 216.3. Exceptional leave to enter or remain
 - 216.4. Indefinite leave to enter or remain
 - 216.5. Humanitarian protection
 - 216.6. Leave outside the rules
 - 216.7. The husband, wife, civil partner and child of any of the above in this paragraph (that is, 216.1 to 216.6)
- P217. The individual's immigration permission in the UK may have a 'No recourse to public funds' condition. This does not include education or education funding, so this does not affect an individual's eligibility, which must be decided under the normal eligibility conditions.
- P218. Asylum seekers are eligible to receive funding if:
- 218.1. they have lived in the UK for six months or longer while their claim is being considered by the Home Office, and no decision on their claim has been made
 - 218.2. or they are in the care of the local authority and are receiving local authority support under section 23C or section 23CA of the Children Act 1989 or section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948
- P219. An individual who has been refused asylum will be eligible if:
- 219.1. they have appealed against a decision made by the UK

government against granting refugee status and no decision has been made within six months of lodging the appeal

219.2. or they are granted support for themselves under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

219.3. or they are in the care of a local authority and are receiving local authority support for themselves under section 23C or section 23CA of the Children Act 1989

P220. In the explanations below, the ‘principal’ is the European Union (EU) or EEA national. The ‘family’ or ‘family member’ is the apprentice, and must be the husband, wife, civil partner, child, grandchild, dependent parent or grandparent of the ‘principal’.

P221. If the individual, who is a family member of an EEA national, has been ordinarily resident in the EEA for the three years prior to the start of their course, they are eligible for funding.

P222. This table shows the eligibility for family members if:

222.1. the family member is now ordinarily resident in England, but has not been ordinarily resident in the EEA for at least the previous three years before the start of learning

222.2. and a principal has been resident within the EEA for the last three years

		Principal ordinarily resident in the EEA for three years		
		EU (including UK) citizen	Non-EU EEA citizen	Non-EEA citizen
Family member not ordinarily resident in the EEA for three years	EU (including UK) citizen	Eligible	Eligible	Not eligible
	Non-EU EEA citizen	Eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
	Non-EEA citizen	Eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible

P223. A child of a Turkish worker is eligible if all of the following apply.

223.1. The Turkish worker is ordinarily resident in the UK.

223.2. The Turkish worker is, or has been, lawfully employed in the UK.

223.3. The child has been ordinarily resident in the EEA and/or Turkey for the full three-year period before the start of their programme.

- P224. 16- to 18-year-olds are eligible to be funded for an apprenticeship if any of the following clauses apply.
- 224.1. They are accompanying or joining parents who have the right of abode, leave to enter or leave to remain in the UK (or accompanying or joining parents who are EEA nationals).
 - 224.2. They are the children of diplomats.
 - 224.3. They are the children of teachers coming to the UK on a teacher exchange scheme.
 - 224.4. They are entering the UK (where not accompanied by their parents) and are British (or EEA) citizens.
 - 224.5. They have a passport that has been endorsed to either show they have the right of abode in the United Kingdom or to show that they have no restrictions on working in the UK.
 - 224.6. They are an asylum seeker.
 - 224.7. They are placed in the care of the local authority.
 - 224.8. They meet the requirements for any other eligible category in this document.
- P225. You can find further information on eligibility from the [UK Council for International Student Affairs \(UKCISA\)](#).

Countries or areas where residency establishes eligibility for our funding

- P226. You can access a list of European Union (EU) member states on the [EU website](#).
- P227. Other territories are categorised as being within the European Union for the purposes of the fees regulations; these are as follows.
- Cyprus:** any Cypriot national living on any part of the island qualifies for EU residency and is considered an EU national
 - Finland:** includes the Aland Islands
 - France:** the French Overseas Department (DOMS) (Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana (Guyana), Reunion and Saint-Pierre et Miquelon) as part of metropolitan France
 - Germany:** includes the former German Democratic Republic and the tax-free port of Heligoland
 - Portugal:** includes Madeira and the Azores but not Macau
 - Spain:** includes the Balearic Islands, the Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla

United Kingdom: includes Gibraltar

To note: the Channel Islands and Isle of Man are part of the United Kingdom and Islands but not part of the EU.

Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and the Vatican are not part of the EU.

- P228. For funding eligibility purposes, EEA and eligible overseas dependent territories is defined as all member states of the EU and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Norway and all the eligible British overseas territories and EU overseas territories (listed in paragraph 230 below).
- P229. Although Switzerland is not part of the formally recognised EEA, its nationals are eligible under various international treaties signed by the UK and Swiss governments.
- P230. Individuals who are nationals of certain British overseas territories and of certain European overseas territories are eligible for funding, depending on the three-year rule on residence in the EEA. These are as follows.

Anguilla

Bermuda

British Antarctic Territory

British Indian Ocean Territory

British Virgin Islands

Cayman Islands

Falkland Islands

Henderson Island

Montserrat

Pitcairn, Ducie and Oeno Islands

South Georgia and the South Sandwich Isles

St Helena and its dependencies

Turks and Caicos Islands

Greenland and Faroe Isles

Antilles (Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St Eustatius and St Maarten)

Aruba

New Caledonia and its dependencies

French Polynesia

Saint Barthélemy

The Territory of Wallis and Futuna Islands

Mayotte

French Southern and Antarctic Territories

Annex B - Apprenticeships – performance-management rules for providers delivering apprenticeships to non-levy-paying employers

- P231. The following rules apply to all providers delivering apprenticeships to non-levy-paying employers. The term ‘providers’ in this section means providers and employer-providers delivering apprenticeships to non-levy-paying employers, unless we state otherwise.
- P232. The rules apply to all apprentices starting new apprenticeship programmes on or after 1 May 2017 with non-levy-paying employers. This includes apprenticeship frameworks and standards and those delivered by higher education institutions. We will use the generic term ‘apprenticeship’ for all types of apprenticeships with non-levy-paying employers, unless we state otherwise.

Apprenticeships payments and performance

- P233. These rules apply to the period May 2017 to July 2018. This spans two financial years.

233.1. May 2017 to March 2018 (period 10 of the 2016 to 2017 funding year to period 8 of the 2017 to 2018 funding year).

233.2. April 2018 to July 2018 (periods 9 to 12 of the 2017 to 2018 funding year).

- P234. Your contract will identify your contract value for new starts (as agreed through the procurement exercise). It will state the maximum amount of apprenticeship provision you can deliver to non-levy-paying employers for:

- 16 to 18 apprenticeships from May 2017 to July 2018
- adult apprenticeships from May 2017 to July 2018

- P235. You must fund the delivery of both apprenticeship frameworks and apprenticeship standards from your existing apprenticeship contract value. This includes any additional incentive payments that you must pass to employers. You must also fund the delivery of English and maths.

- P236. You must provide learning support to apprentices from your existing contract value.

16 to 18 apprenticeships and adult apprenticeships for all providers

- P237. You cannot use 16 to 18 apprenticeship funding to deliver 16 to 18 traineeships.
- P238. We will pay you on the basis of your actual delivery each month up to your contract value for the financial year. We will calculate the value of your actual delivery using the latest validated ILR and EAS data you provide.
- P239. We will not make an automatic payment for delivery over your contract value.
- P240. We will measure your performance against a standard national profile (please see table 1 of annex A) at set performance-management points. The performance-management point timetable is set out in table 1 of annex B.

- P241. We will reduce your apprenticeship contract value where your performance against the standard national profile for the period in question is outside our published tolerance levels. The tolerance levels that we will apply at the performance-management points are set out in table 1 of annex B.
- P242. The reduction in your apprenticeship contract value will reflect some or all of the value of the under-delivery to date. We will not change this approach unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- P243. We will apply the reduction unless:
- 243.1. your historic delivery pattern is significantly different to the standard national profile (including where this is a result of your delivery of apprenticeship standards)
 - 243.2. you demonstrate that you were impacted by data issues that were outside of your control
 - 243.3. it is less than £25,000
- P244. We reserve the right to increase or decrease the number of performance-management points we operate, in line with delivery against the apprenticeship budget.
- P245. We will review delivery against the apprenticeship budget. We may adjust your contract value if there is a risk that demand for apprenticeships may exceed the national budget.

Annex C – Standard national profiles

The following tables set out a 15-month profile from May 2017 (P10 of the 2016 to 2017 funding year) to July 2018 (P12 of the 2017 to 2018 funding year).

Table 1. 16 to 18 apprenticeships

	2016 TO 2017 FUNDING YEAR			2017 TO 2018 FUNDING YEAR											
	P10	P11	P12	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10	P11	P12
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
16 to 18 apprenticeships monthly profile	0%	1%	1%	3%	5%	6%	8%	14%	9%	7%	7%	8%	10%	10%	11%
16 to 18 apprenticeships cumulative profile	0%	1%	2%	5%	10%	16%	24%	38%	47%	54%	61%	69%	79%	89%	100%

Table 2. Adult apprenticeships

	2016 TO 2017 FUNDING YEAR			2017 TO 2018 FUNDING YEAR											
	P10	P11	P12	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10	P11	P12
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Adult apprenticeships monthly profile	1%	2%	2%	4%	5%	6%	7%	7%	7%	8%	9%	9%	11%	10%	12%
Adult apprenticeships cumulative profile	1%	3%	5%	9%	14%	20%	27%	34%	41%	49%	58%	67%	78%	88%	100%

Annex D – Performance-management point

Table 1. Apprenticeships performance-management point, tolerances and minimum thresholds

	Performance-management point 1	Performance-management point 2
Delivery information using the latest validated ILR data you provide	6 October 2017	6 April 2018
Tolerance for under-delivery	10%	5%
Lower threshold for contract value adjustments	£25,000	£25,000
Cases for reducing contract values reviewed by	10 November 2017	11 May 2018
Decision to approve or reject reductions	w/c 20 November 2017	w/c 21 May 2018
Providers told the outcome of our performance-management process from	w/c 27 November 2017	w/c 28 May 2018

Annex E - Apprenticeship grant for employers (AGE) for 16 to 24-year-olds

- P246. The Apprenticeship Grant for Employers of 16 to 24-year-olds (AGE 16 to 24) supports businesses that would not otherwise be in a position to do so, to recruit individuals aged 16 to 24 into employment through the apprenticeship programme.
- P247. AGE will continue for apprentices starting before 1 August 2017. We will publish performance-management rules for AGE for the period 1 May until 31 July 2017 in due course.
- P248. AGE can only be claimed for an employer who does not pay the apprenticeship levy and has fewer than 50 employees who would not otherwise be in a position to recruit an apprentice aged 16 to 24 at the start of their apprenticeship, into employment through an approved apprenticeship framework. Employers who hold a Conditions of Funding (Grant) – employer funding agreement with us for apprenticeships cannot have an AGE funding agreement and cannot claim AGE.
- P249. An eligible employer can claim a maximum of five AGE grants in total, subject to eligibility.
- P250. These funding rules must be read together with the latest AGE 16 to 24 employer fact sheet which details the terms and conditions of the grant; your AGE 16 to 24 provider funding agreement and the technical guidance note which you can access on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).
- P251. The employer must not have started an apprentice (of any age or at any level) in the previous 12 months prior to the start date of the first apprentice claiming the AGE.
- P252. You can only offer AGE if you have a signed AGE 16 to 24 provider funding agreement. You must not offer AGE to an employer if this would result in your commitments to employers exceeding your agreed contract value.
- P253. AGE is not available for apprenticeship standards.
- P254. AGE is available for eligible apprentices who started their apprenticeship on or before 31 July 2017, subject to affordability.

Employer eligibility

- P255. You must check that an employer is eligible before applying for the grant. You must provide the employer with a copy of the latest AGE 16 to 24 employer fact sheet and ensure they understand the criteria.
- P256. You must correctly complete the requirements in the AGE 16 to 24 employer declaration and ensure the employer understands the timetable to process an eligible claim and for the payment to be received. You can find more information about AGE on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).
- P257. Check your own ILR records to confirm that they have not accessed apprenticeship funding with you in the last 12 months.
- P258. Check that the employer identifier used in the individualised learner record (ILR) relates to the correct legal entity employing the apprentice and that the record confirms that

their recorded total aggregate workforce is fewer than 50, including any apprentices already employed.

258.1. Ensure that the employer is aware that if they, or any other branches or divisions in their business, have accessed apprenticeship programme funding for new apprenticeship starts in the last 12 months, they will not be eligible for the AGE grant.

258.2. Ensure that the employer is aware that payment timing is dependent on a timely and correctly completed record by you, and that this will take at least eight weeks after the 13-week eligibility trigger for this to be processed by the SFA and paid by you.

P259. Public sector organisations who meet the eligibility criteria can apply for the grant. For the purposes of the grant, the number of employees for schools and doctors' surgeries is based on the site, not the local authority.

P260. In specific circumstances, certain franchises that employ fewer than 50 employees (as recorded on EDS) are eligible to claim the grant.

Qualifying apprentices

P261. To be eligible, individuals must:

261.1. be aged between 16 to 24 years old at the start of their apprenticeship

261.2. be living in England

261.3. start on an SFA-approved apprenticeship framework before their 25th birthday

261.4. not be an existing employee but a new recruit with the employer

261.5. still be employed with the employer making the claim at the date of the 13-week qualifying period from the 'learning' start date as recorded on the ILR

P262. Where the apprentice is subject to a break in learning the employer may still be eligible for an AGE grant where the apprentice has been correctly coded on the ILR. Please refer to the technical guidance note hosted on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) on how to process apprentices who have a break in learning.

P263. Where an eligible employer is recruiting a 16 to 24-year-old who started their apprenticeship with another employer, they may be potentially eligible for the grant. The employer must commit to employ the apprentice for a minimum of 12 months or for the duration of the apprenticeship, whichever is the longer. The ILR must be updated to record the new employer's employer identifier.

P264. You must:

264.1. help employers check their eligibility and to understand their commitment when applying for the grant; advising employers of eligibility and the reasons why

264.2. clarify the process of applying for the grant, including timescales for when employers will receive payment

- 264.3. check against the data available to ensure the claim is accurate and successfully processed
- 264.4. submit applications on behalf of eligible employers through the ILR ensuring that the ILR is correctly coded, including the correct employer identifier for the employer and the current learning delivery monitoring (LDM) code for AGE
- 264.5. record the AGE LDM code on the ILR at the earliest opportunity; you should submit an ILR record for the apprentice with the correct AGE LDM codes as part of your next data return and before the 13-week qualifying period
- 264.6. obtain and retain eligibility evidence
- 264.7. investigate and resolve employer complaints and issues relating to AGE claims
- 264.8. co-operate and supply information to the Skills Funding Agency where a complaint has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant and has been escalated to the SFA in accordance with your AGE 16 to 24 provider funding agreement (PFA) make payments to eligible employers no later than 30 days after receipt of funding from the Skills Funding Agency

Devolution

- P265. Employers who recruit apprentices in areas where the AGE 16 to 24 budget has been devolved are not eligible for an AGE grant funded by the SFA. Your PFA includes further information on when a devolution agreement is agreed and the impact this will have on your contract value.
- P266. You must signpost employers to the devolved area where the AGE budget is managed locally through devolution. You can access an up-to-date list of areas where AGE is managed locally and how to contact them on GOV.UK.
- P267. You must include the correct LDM code on the ILR to identify that the employer is claiming a grant. You should also use the same code for apprentices where their employer's postcode falls within a devolved area's footprint. You can find further guidance on valid LDM codes and recording AGE apprentices on GOV.UK.

Application process and evidence requirements

- P268. You must verify apprentice and employer eligibility for the AGE grant at the start of the discussion with employers about their AGE 16 to 24 and retain any evidence you collect to demonstrate this.
- P269. You and the employer must complete and sign the AGE 16 to 24 employer declaration (you can access this on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).) as soon as possible but always before the 13-week period is reached. You must provide a copy of the signed declaration with the employer once it has been completed and signed by both parties.
- P270. You must refer to the technical guidance note for details on how to process your AGE claim and comply with the performance-management rules when delivering AGE.

Recovery of funds

- P271. If you identify the employer or apprentice as being ineligible before the 13-week qualifying period, you must update the ILR record and contact the employer to make them aware of the change.
- P272. Where your ILR submission makes an employer ineligible, we will recover the funds. You must update the ILR record at the earliest opportunity.

Apprenticeship training agency (ATA) requirements

- P273. ATAs that have successfully completed the ATA recognition process and are on the national register of approved ATAs are able to offer the grant to eligible 'host employers' committed to support the apprentice for a minimum of 12 months or the time they take to completed their apprenticeship programme, whichever is the longer.
- P274. Recognised ATAs will work with the training organisation network to claim the grant on behalf of the 'host employer' (as ATAs will not be administrating grants on behalf of the employer). The entire £1,500 should be passed to the 'host employer' by the training organisation. ATAs and the training organisation must not hold back or top-slice any element of the £1,500, directly or indirectly. Grant payments cannot be split between host employers.
- P275. You must use the version of the employer declaration which is specifically for eligible host employers who are applying through an ATA.

Glossary

Apprenticeship	An apprenticeship is a job with an accompanying skills development programme. This includes the training and (where required) end-point assessment for an employee as part of a job with an accompanying skills development programme.
Apprenticeship agreement	An agreement between an employer and an apprentice in accordance with the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act 2009 sections 32 to 36.
Apprenticeship training agency (ATA)	An organisation whose main business is employing apprentices who are made available to employers for a fee.
Apprenticeship levy	The apprenticeship levy will be a levy on UK employers to fund new apprenticeships. In England, control of apprenticeship funding will be put in the hands of employers through the apprenticeship service. The levy will be charged at a rate of 0.5% of an employer's pay bill. Each employer will receive an allowance of £15,000 to offset against their levy payment.
Break in learning	When an individual is not continuing with their learning but has told the employer beforehand that they intend to resume their learning in the future.
Commitment statement	A statement held by the main provider, the apprentice and their employer. The commitment statement sets out how the apprentice will be supported to successful achievement of the apprenticeship. It must be signed by the apprentice, their employer and the main provider, and all three parties must retain a current signed and dated version.
Digital account	The area on the apprenticeship service where employers can manage their funding and apprentices, view their account balance and plan their spending.
The apprenticeship service	The digital interface to services designed to support the uptake of apprenticeships. The service is aimed primarily at employers who engage with learning providers and apprenticeship assessment organisations to deliver and facilitate the apprenticeship programme.
Distance learning	Learning delivered remotely (not face-to-face). This could include, but is not limited to, e-learning and webinars.
Earnings adjustment statement (EAS)	The form providers need to fill in to claim funding that cannot be claimed through the individualised learner record.
Employed	An individual who has a contract of employment. This does not include individuals who are self-employed.
Evidence pack	A collection of documents and information brought together to form a single point of reference relating to the learning that is taking place. This provides the evidence to prove that the apprentice exists and is eligible for funding, and for the learning to be provided.
Exceptional learning support (ELS)	Learning support when the needs of the apprentice are over £19,000 in a single year.

Functional skills	Applied practical skills in English, maths and ICT that provide the individual with the essential knowledge, skills and understanding to enable them to operate effectively and independently in life and work.
Gateway requirements	These are requirements set out in the assessment plan that must be met by the apprentice prior to undertaking end-point assessment of the apprenticeship standard. They will include the completion of English and maths qualifications (where applicable) and completion of any on-programme mandatory qualifications (where applicable) along with satisfactory evidence (as determined by the employer, in consultation with the training provider) that the apprentice has achieved the necessary knowledge, skills and behaviours set out in the standard.
Higher and degree apprenticeships	An apprenticeship where the main learning is at level 4 or above (including higher education qualifications).
The Hub	The Hub provides online services including the return of your ILR and completed EAS. You can also search all learning aims, components of qualifications, apprenticeship frameworks and standards along with their validity and funding details.
Immigration permission	The permissions, or otherwise, granted by the government of the United Kingdom for an individual to reside here.
Individualised learner record (ILR)	The primary data collection requested from learning providers for further education and work-based learning in England. The data is used widely, most notably by the government, to monitor policy implementation and the performance of the sector. It is also used by organisations that allocate funding for further education.
Integrated standard	An integrated standard is where the end-point assessment is incorporated into the main learning aim (usually a degree or other full higher education qualification). In these cases, there is no need for an additional independent assessment.
Levy-paying employer	An employer with an annual pay bill of over £3 million.
Licence to practise	Where it is a legal (or statutory) requirement for all practitioners to obtain a licence which confirms the licence holder meets prescribed standards of competence, including situations in which it is unlawful to carry out a specified range of activities for pay without first having obtained a licence.
Ordinarily resident	For funding purposes, a person who normally lives in the country, is allowed to live there by law, and return there after temporary trips outside the country. Temporary absences from a country due to the learner or a relevant family member working or travelling abroad would be discounted when considering ordinary residency.
Personal learning record (PLR)	The personal learning record (PLR) allows individual apprentices access to their past and current achievement records. These can be shared with schools, colleges, further education training providers, universities or employers when making an application to further their education, training and employment.

Learning planned end date	The date entered onto the ILR when the learner is expected to complete their learning.
Register of apprenticeship training providers	From May 2017, levied employers will be able to choose a provider from a new register, the register of apprenticeship training providers (RoATP). The register will encourage diversity and competition in the provider market, supporting quality and employer choice. To be added to the register, organisations must pass tests on due diligence, financial health, and tests on quality, capacity and capability.
Register of apprentice assessment organisations	A register of assessment organisations from which an employer can select an organisation (to be contracted by a main provider) to deliver the end-point assessment as part of the employer's agreed apprenticeship programme.
Start of learning	The date on which learning begins. We do not consider enrolment, induction, diagnostic assessment or prior assessment to be part of learning.
Subcontractor	A legal entity that has a contractual relationship with a provider to deliver apprenticeship training funded by us.
Unique learner number	A 10-digit number used to match a learner's achievement to their personal learning record (PLR).
Written agreement	The main provider must have a written agreement in place with the assessment organisation and make payment to them for conducting the end-point assessment. The written agreement must set out the arrangements for end-point assessment including arrangements for any re-takes and the transaction of payments.
Zero-hour contracts	Contracts which do not specify a set number of hours for the employee.



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