



[Home](#) > [Further education and skills](#) > [Apprenticeships](#) > [Removal of apprenticeship frameworks](#)



Skills Funding  
Agency

## 1. Latest batch of apprenticeships to be withdrawn

We are asking for feedback on the 4th batch of frameworks. These are intended to be withdrawn to new starts on 1 April 2018. The [proposal](#) will be open from Wednesday 22 February to Wednesday 5 April.

A [full list of frameworks](#) included in this proposal is available on GOV.UK.

We will review the feedback and announce the final list for withdrawal in May 2017. This will give 9 months' notice of the date of withdrawal.

If we defer the withdrawal, the framework will be included in the next batch of proposed withdrawals that is planned in the summer.

The frameworks included in this proposal have replacement apprenticeship standards that cover the same occupations; the replacement standards are expected to be ready for delivery by 1 April 2018.

We will consider deferring the withdrawal date if you can provide clear and strong evidence that:

- relevant standards due to be in place by 1 April 2018, or soon after, will not cover some occupations covered by the framework's pathways for which there is still significant demand or;

- there are strong reasons why the replacement standard(s) cannot be ready for learners from 1 April 2018 or soon after

## 2. Withdrawn frameworks

This [list](#) contains the frameworks we have either withdrawn or are withdrawing. We previously withdrew 2 batches of frameworks.

In March 2016 we published the first frameworks to be withdrawn as part of apprenticeship reforms. These had no starts in the last 2 funding years (August to July). We closed these to new starts from 1 June 2016. In May 2016 we announced the second batch of frameworks to be withdrawn to new starts from 1 December 2016. These had fewer than 50 starts in each of the last 2 funding years. We closed these to new starts from 30 November 2016.

In January we announced the third batch of frameworks to be withdrawn to new starts from 1 October 2017. These had zero starts in the last 2 funding years or replacement standards that provide good coverage and were approved for delivery. We will close these to new starts on 30 September 2017.

## 3. Background of the transition from frameworks to standards

As part of the government's drive to ensure apprenticeships are high-quality and to deliver the skills our economy needs, apprenticeship frameworks are being replaced by employer-designed standards. This was announced in December 2015 in [English Apprenticeships: Our 2020 Vision](#). No new frameworks have been developed or issued since 31 August 2014, instead employers from sectors ranging from fashion to nuclear are coming together to design new [apprenticeship standards](#).

The SFA expects to move from apprenticeship frameworks to standards over the course of the parliament. We are phasing the withdrawal of apprenticeship frameworks as employers take on apprentices on the new standards, and ensuring issuing authorities and training providers have reasonable notice to prepare for the changes.

The Secretary of State has written to the relevant issuing authorities to remove the framework and the issuing authorities will notify providers and employers.

## 4. Further information on the next stages

We intend to announce next steps for withdrawing the remaining live frameworks in the spring.

Once the withdrawal date has passed for a framework, learners will continue to complete their apprenticeship, on their agreed funding arrangements, and their apprenticeship completion certificate can be claimed as normal.

You can find [guidance about developing an apprenticeship standard](#) and a [list of apprenticeship standards](#) which are currently available on the [apprenticeship standards page](#) of GOV.UK.

The last date for new starts on these frameworks will be updated on [Apprenticeship Certificate England \(ACE\)](#) and on the learning aims search on [the Hub](#). On the agreed withdrawal date the frameworks will be archived on [Apprenticeship Frameworks Online](#).

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[Working, jobs and pensions](#)

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