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Skills Funding
Agency

1. Subcontracting controls: external assurance

Action

The following organisations must submit their completed external assurance on subcontracting controls certificate to [CFsubcontracting](#) by Wednesday 31 May:

- lead providers with subcontracts totalling £100,000 or more in the 2016 to 2017 funding year
- direct grant employers subcontracting more than 50% of their allocation in the 2016 to 2017 funding year

There is an information document and [certificate proforma](#) on GOV.UK.

We will consider what actions to take against lead providers and direct grant employers that fail to meet the deadline.

For more information, contact the [service desk](#).

2. Apprenticeship reforms: proposal to withdraw fourth batch of

frameworks

Action

We are asking for feedback on the withdrawal of the fourth batch of apprenticeship frameworks. The [proposal](#) is now open, and will close at 5pm on 5 April 2017.

The frameworks included in this proposal have replacement apprenticeship standards that cover the same occupations. We expect the replacement standards to be ready for delivery by 1 April 2018. The proposed last date for new starts on these frameworks will be 31 March 2018.

You can provide feedback through our [online survey](#).

For further information, refer to the [removal of apprenticeship frameworks](#) page on GOV.UK or contact the [service desk](#).

3. College accounts direction

Information

SFA and EFA have updated the [college accounts direction for 2016 to 2017](#).

The accounts direction sets out the financial reporting requirements for sixth-form and further education colleges.

4. Post-16 audit code of practice

Information

SFA and EFA have updated the [post-16 audit code of practice for 2016 to 2017](#).

The audit code sets out a common standard for the provision of assurance in relation to funding of post-16 providers.

We plan to publish the regularity self-assessment questionnaire as a separate document in due course.

5. Mystery shopper

Information

To help us understand how prepared providers are for the new apprenticeship reforms we are carrying out a 'mystery shopper' exercise to test aspects of apprenticeship readiness. This will enable us to identify any further support the sector may need to be ready to meet employer demand for apprenticeships.

Further information about the [new apprenticeship reforms](#) can be found on GOV.UK.

Please contact your provider manager if you have any queries.

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