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Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

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# 1. Supporting employers to engage their end-point assessment organisation

## Action

As part of our work with the Institute of Apprenticeships and end-point-assessment organisations and their representative bodies, we want to remind you that:

- apprentices following an apprenticeship standard need to undertake end-point assessment - this is an assessment of the apprentices' knowledge, skills and behaviours and is carried out by an independent organisation
- you should engage with an end-point-assessment organisation as early as possible, and well before the apprentice is expected to reach the gateway
- you should only use organisations listed on the register of end-point-assessment organisations and then only for the standards they are approved to deliver end-point assessment for
- the lead provider is responsible for recording the chosen end-point-assessment organisation and the agreed price for end-point assessment on the ILR

Should you have a query please contact the [service desk](#).

## 2. Advanced Learner Loans provider seminars

### Information

The Student Loans Company are holding their annual provider events in May 2018.

These events are an opportunity to share knowledge and gain an insight into the operational policy, systems and resources of the programme.

You can find more details on their [website](#).

## 3. Withdrawal of frameworks by Issuing Authority

### Information

The National Skills Academy for Food and Drink [announced](#), in October 2017, that they are withdrawing several pathways from the Food and Drink apprenticeship framework at Level 2 and 3. These pathways will be closed to new starts from 30 April 2018 as shown on the [learning aim search on the Hub](#). Further information on which pathways are being withdrawn and which will continue to be available after this date is [here](#).

Any apprentices starting on the Food and Drink framework before the withdrawal date will be able to continue until completion. Apprentices who successfully achieve will still be able to claim their certificate using the current system.

## 4. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

### Information

In preparation for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and associated changes to data protection legislation, the ESFA will be issuing any necessary changes to its privacy notices and agreements with third parties for the processing of personal data, where the Department for Education is the data controller, prior to 25 May.

This includes processing of personal data relating to learners, including apprentices, citizens under the Learning Records Service and National Careers Service, and processed under agreements with colleges and training providers, employers and awarding organisations.

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