



## Welcome

Update is our weekly round-up of business-critical or useful information to Skills Funding Agency (SFA) colleges, other training organisations and direct grant employers.

Please forward and share Update with your colleagues, who might also like to register for [web alerts](#). This will notify them by email when we add new issues of Update to our [website](#) on [GOV.UK](#); you can also connect with us on [Twitter](#). If you have any feedback, please email [Update](#).

Please note that the Service Centre will be closed temporarily on **Thursday, 16 July**; you can still log your queries by emailing the [Service Desk](#).

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## 1. Funding Claims 2014 to 2015: Updated Version

### Action

We have published an updated version of the [Funding Claims 2014 to 2015](#) document.

Please upload a scanned version of the signed final funding claim form to [the Hub](#). We will not accept posted copies. You must upload the scanned version by 27 October, as indicated in [Annex A](#) of the updated funding claims document. We have amended paragraphs 17, 40, 54 and 64 to reflect this change.

For further information, please refer to the [Funding Claims](#) section of our website on [GOV.UK](#).

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## 2. Individualised Learner Record R12 2014 to 2015: Opens Monday, 20 July

### Action

The individualised learner record (ILR) R12 data collection for the funding year 2014 to 2015 will open on **Monday, 20 July**. If you are due to make a return for R12, you must submit your data to [the Hub](#).

For further information, please refer to the [Payments and Data](#) section of our website on [GOV.UK](#).

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## 3. Business Applications Unavailable

### Information

The following business applications will be unavailable from **5.00pm on Thursday, 23 July** until the morning of **Tuesday, 28 July**:

- Data collections facility – you will not be able to post your individualised learner record (ILR) R12 data return.
- Contracts and finance tab - you will not be able to view your contracting and performance data.
- Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching System – you will not be able to post vacancies.

During this time, we will move the infrastructure supporting our business applications to a new supplier. This will not affect payments, which will continue as normal and are scheduled to run before and after the move.

We will issue guidelines next week to help you prepare and plan activities, specifically in relation to apprenticeship vacancies.

For further information, please email the [Service Desk](#).

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## 4. Raising the Participation Age

### Information

The first phase of Raising the Participation Age (RPA) started in June 2013. It required young people to continue to participate in education and training for a further year after the end of compulsory schooling.

The second phase started in June 2015. It requires young people to continue until they are at least 18-years-old. Those who left year 11 in summer 2014 will be the first group affected.

Young people can choose to participate through full-time education, a job or volunteering combined with part-time study, or through an apprenticeship or traineeship. Colleges and other training organisations should ensure that young people meet RPA requirements.

For further information, please refer to the [statutory guidance](#) on [GOV.UK](#) or email [Kyri Papasavva](#).

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## 5. Changes to Higher Education Student Finance

### Information

In the summer budget on Wednesday, 8 July, the Chancellor announced changes to higher education (HE) student finance.

The changes are to ensure the HE funding system remains sustainable and affordable for students, graduates and the taxpayer. It also means more money for living costs to students with household income of less than £25,000 a year who were previously eligible for a grant.

Please make sure that your learners are aware of the changes and how they will affect them.

For further information, please refer to the [Student Finance](#) section of the [GOV.UK](#) website.

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