

Timeline: Learndirect Ltd aborted sale of LDA and Ofsted's delay

February 2016	Discussions begin between Learndirect Ltd and Global University Systems concerning a sale of the apprenticeships division.
March	Learndirect Ltd incorporates Learndirect Apprenticeships Ltd.
April	Ofsted moves Learndirect risk assessment rating from amber to red after 2014/15 achievement rates show decline and schedules inspection for November 2016.
June	On 2nd June Sky News reports it "understands that Global University Systems (GUS), which has a presence in 30 countries, is in exclusive negotiations about a takeover of the apprenticeships division of Learndirect."
August	ESFA meet with GUS representatives concerning the purchase of Learndirect Apprenticeships Ltd.
September	ESFA gave it's agreement to the sale of Learndirect Ltd's apprenticeship provision.
October	<p>Peter Lauener, chief executive at the ESFA, writes to Learndirect Ltd to confirm that the Secretary of State agrees the transfer of funding (contract 'novation') from Learndirect Ltd to Learndirect Apprenticeships Ltd on the basis of a sale to GUS. Mr Lauener says in future the ESFA would have to comply with the public contract regulations 2015 in relation to the award or transfer of the contract to a different legal entity.</p> <p>ESFA sends Learndirect letter to Ofsted and applies deferral policy and cancels inspection planned for Learndirect.</p>
November	Scheduled Ofsted inspection does not take place.
December	GUS pulls out of sale negotiation and ESFA informs Ofsted
January 2017	Ofsted reschedules inspection of Learndirect Ltd for March, once 2015/16 achievement data finalised.
March	<p>On 16 March Ofsted informs Learndirect inspection will begin the following week.</p> <p>Learndirect Ltd asks Ofsted to apply their deferral policy (again) and delay the inspection as the ESFA has (again) agreed a transfer of contract to Learndirect Apprenticeships Ltd from 1 May 2017.</p> <p>The following day, on the 17 March, Ofsted tell Learndirect the inspection will go ahead as planned the following week.</p>
April	Ofsted delay publication of the Grade 4 report owing to Purdah ahead of the General election.
June	Ofsted delay publication of the Grade 4 report owing to legal challenge from Learndirect.
August	Ofsted publish Grade 4 report after Learndirect lose legal challenge.