

#### FAB 2017: Conference, Awards & Exhibition

19 & 20 October 2017,  
Leicester Marriott Hotel

#### FAB Training Courses

Please click [here](#) to access the full list of training courses and to register.

- [Introduction to the awarding sector](#)  
10:15 – 16:30, 07.11.2017
- [Multiple Choice Question Writing](#)  
10.00 – 16.30, 14.11.2017
- [Introduction to malpractice investigation management \(Day 1\)](#)  
10:15 – 16:30, 06.02.2018
- [An introduction to developing vocational qualifications](#)  
10:15 – 16:30, 22.02.2018
- [Introduction to the awarding sector](#)  
10:15 – 16:30, 28.02.2018
- [Handling complaints, appeals and enquiries](#)  
10:15 – 16:30, 14.03.2018

#### FAB Group Meetings

Please click [here](#) to access the full list of group meetings and to register.

##### Upcoming meetings:

- [FAB Functional Skills Group](#)  
11:00 – 14:00, 14.11.2017
- [FAB Members Event](#)  
11.00 – 16.00, 05.12.2017
- [FAB/TAF Apprenticeship Group](#)  
10:30 – 12:30, 13.12.2017

#### FAB/JCQ Meetings

- [Scotland Advisory Group](#)  
11.00 – 14.30, 16.11.2017
- [Northern Ireland Awarding Body Forum](#)  
11.30 – 14.30, 06.12.2017

### In this Update: 27 October 2017

(Click a title below to go straight to a particular article)

- [CEO Comment – making T Levels work](#)
- [FAB 2017 Conference, Awards and Exhibition](#)
- [The Qualification Manager's Handbook](#)
- [An approach to understanding validation arguments](#)
- [Changes to Contact Ofqual](#)
- [Sharing Personal Data with Ofqual](#)
- [Qualifications Wales, Responsible Officer Letter QWCC1-033, Qualifications on Apprenticeship Frameworks in Wales](#)
- [Reminder – is the Qualifications Wales Annual Awarding Body Forum in your diary?](#)
- [Qualifications Wales annual 'Scope of recognition' exercise](#)
- [Qualifications Wales – Updates to QiW](#)
- [The Institute for Apprenticeships \(IfA\) – 6 months on](#)
- [Long-term apprenticeship model evaluation](#)
- [People and policy: A comparative study of apprenticeship across eight national contexts](#)
- [Minister appoints new apprenticeship ambassadors](#)
- [National Apprenticeship Week 2018](#)
- [Apprenticeship publications](#)
- [Advanced learner loans applications: 2016 to 2017 \(final\)](#)
- [LRS: AO Event data change User Guide and AO User Guide](#)
- [ESFA: current notices of concern](#)
- [Prison Education Common Awarding Organisations – Tender Opportunity](#)
- [New Erasmus + Call for proposals – Joint Qualifications in Vocational Education and Training](#)
- [ESOL strategy for England – progress update](#)
- [World Skills 2017](#)
- [Discount codes](#)
- [Destination data and outcomes based success measure](#)
- [Changes to Performance Measures at Key Stage 4 affecting early entry \(Wales\)](#)
- [Further education reform programme evaluation](#)

#### External Events

- Next steps for SEND policy - SEND reforms, funding, local area inspections and best practice in provision  
09 November 2017  
(08:30 – 13:00)
- Next steps for sport in primary and secondary schools - new funding, the healthy schools rating, and improving the quality of PE  
30 November 2017  
(08:30 – 13:00)
- Raising educational attainment and improving social mobility in England  
18 January 2018  
(08:30 – 13:00)

#### FAB Consultant and Supplier List

Looking for a supplier or consultant? [Search here](#).

#### FAB Legal Package

Looking for legal services? [Click here](#).

#### FAB Webinars

These webinars provide information/training on topics related to vocational education and training. They are free for individuals from FAB member organisations and £100 (ex VAT) for individuals from non-member organisations, unless otherwise indicated.

Please click the links below for full details and to register:

- [Ofqual Event Notifications](#)  
01 November 2017  
(15:00 – 16:00)
- [Ensuring a fit for purpose complaints process](#)  
15 November 2017  
(10:15 – 11:15)
- [Competition Law and AOs- what you need to know](#)  
22 November 2017  
(10:15 – 11:15)

- Continuing vocational training survey
- FE Choices employer satisfaction survey 2016 to 2017
- Employer ownership pilot round 2: process evaluation
- British Council Services for International Education Marketing (SIEM) conference
- OCR Policy Briefing
- Pearson's Policy Watch
- Dysg eNewsletter
- Department for International Trade (DIT)

#### CEO Comment – making T Levels work

One of the key messages to come out of this year's FAB Conference was the need to remain positive about T Levels. They could and maybe will be the successful technical and professional qualification that previous governments have sought. To help them succeed, I have three suggestions:

1. Open the market up to regulated competition – this would provide choice for centres and learners, promote innovation, create flexibility and responsiveness, encourage high quality service and competitive pricing all within a regulated structure that maintains high and consistent quality.
2. Enable learners to access established qualifications – there are many respected existing qualifications that are either an actual or de facto licence to practice. The wider T Level programme allows some room for "other qualifications" and we should make use of that option extensively.
3. Provide time – let's do this right rather than fast, allowing sufficient time for the T Level to be well designed and then establish itself with informed colleges and other providers. This will include development time, extensive testing, tweaking and further design adjustment, a planned roll out, as well as working with stakeholders to ensure that everyone is fully informed and ready to deliver the T Level effectively.

That last point also includes the management of expectation. Qualifications do not become high quality, recognised and valued by employers overnight. If T Levels are to work, then policy makers need to give them the time to mature.

#### FAB 2017 Conference, Awards and Exhibition

It was great to see so many members at the FAB 2017 Conference, Awards and Exhibition. We hope you found it a useful and enjoyable couple of days. The videos and slide presentations from the keynote speeches and the wide range of seminars that were provided are all available on our website here: [Presentations and videos from FAB 2017](#).

The end of day 1 provided us with the opportunity to celebrate the excellence within the awarding sector through the FAB 2017 Awards. It was fantastic to have so many of the nominees there for the evening and to celebrate the success of the winners:

- Awarding Organisation of the Year – **Ascentis**
- Team of the Year – **Sports Leaders UK**
- Qualification of the Year – **Agored Cymru Level 4 Diploma in Data Analytics**
- Individual Contribution of the Year – **Nigel Barraclough, Quallsafe Awards**

#### Watch it again

Please click the links below to view recordings of past FAB webinars. Membership login details will be required:

- [Update on the National Occupational Standards \(NOS\) Programme](#)  
21 September 2017  
(13:30 – 14:30)
- [The legal implications of Brexit for AOs](#)  
13 September 2017  
(10:15 – 11:15)
- [Key findings- Ofqual Employer Qualifications Perception Survey](#)  
05 September 2017  
(10:15 – 11:15)
- [End Point Assessments - A guide to contractual clauses](#)  
09 August 2017  
(10:15 – 11:15)
- [The Awarding Organisation Landscape for non-executives](#)  
02 August 2017  
(10:15 – 11:15)
- [2017 to 2018 Adult Education Budget funding rules and qualification offer](#)  
01 August 2017  
(14:15 – 13:15)
- [Preparing for the General Data Protection Regulation](#)  
05 July 2017  
(10:15 – 11:15)
- [Making qualifications inclusive to disabled learners](#)  
16 June 2017  
(10:15 – 11:15)
- [The Benefits of Open Badging in End-Point Assessment](#)  
14 June 2017  
(11:15 – 12:15)
- [A referral to the Ofqual legal enforcement team – how to respond](#)  
07 June 2017  
(10:15 – 11:15)

For recordings of more past webinars click [here](#).

- Innovation of the Year – **City & Guilds and Worldchefs Digital Credentials using Open Badge technology**

Thanks too, to the exhibitors who contributed so much to the success of the conference and to the sponsors of the event:

- Headline Sponsor – **Coelrind**
- Programme Sponsor – **Quartz**
- Badge Sponsor – **Secure and Confidential Documents**
- Certificate Sponsor – **EcertSecure**
- Media partner – **FE Week**

#### The Qualification Manager's Handbook

Those of you who attended the FAB 2017 Conference will have received a copy of the first edition of *The Qualification Manager's Handbook*. The handbook provides practical information for people in assessment and awarding organisations and is part of a wider strategy to define the body of knowledge required to design and deliver high quality assessments and qualifications. This is an ongoing programme, encouraging debate and research, ensuring that new ideas are shared through FAB as well as informing our training programme and of course future editions of the handbook.

The handbook can be found here: [The Qualification Manager's Handbook](#) (*Member login details required*).

#### An approach to understanding validation arguments

Attendees at the FAB 2017 Conference may have also picked up a copy of Ofqual's latest research and analysis paper on validity. The paper explores what it means to put validity at the heart of Ofqual's work and how this might be demonstrated. It is intended to help readers to understand what is meant by, and what might be involved in, constructing a validation argument. The paper can be found here: [An approach to understanding validation arguments](#).

#### Changes to Contact Ofqual

Ofqual has issued a reminder on the Portal that 'Contact Ofqual' should be a key channel for awarding organisations to contact them with questions and queries. This enables Ofqual to ensure your enquiry is answered correctly and obtain a full picture of the enquiries it receives.

To improve your experience of Contact Ofqual, a few changes have been made and the User Guide has been updated to reflect these changes.

#### Sharing Personal Data with Ofqual

Ofqual has issued a reminder on the Portal about the importance of complying with data protection legislation when you provide it with information.

The Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) defines the ways in which personal data can be legally processed. An awarding organisation (AO) must assure itself that any information it shares with Ofqual does not breach the DPA.

When communicating with Ofqual, an AO must make sure it is complying with the DPA by removing, anonymising or redacting any information that contains personal data so that an individual or group of individuals cannot be identified. If you believe that doing so will impose a disproportionate burden, you should raise this with Ofqual straight away.

#### Jobs at

[www.awarding.org.uk](http://www.awarding.org.uk)

- **Head of Professional Development**  
TPP EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
Closes 29.10.17
- **Product Quality & Administration Manager**  
IMI  
Closes 30.10.17
- **External Quality Assurer**  
THE INSITITUE OF THE MOTOR INDUSTRY  
Closes 30.10.17
- **Quality Manager - Police & MoD**  
CHARTERED MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE  
Closes 30.10.17
- **Education Officer**  
RSPH  
Closes 30.10.17
- **Membership Advisor (Part Time 8 -12 hours per week)**  
AAT  
Closes 30.10.17
- **External Verifier**  
ACTIVE IQ  
Closes 30.10.17
- **External Verifier -Risk Management**  
ATHE  
Closes 03.11.17
- **Academic Director**  
NCUK  
Closes 05.11.17
- **Assessment Operations Officer (Maternity cover - fixed term contract)**  
AAT  
Closes 06.11.17
- **Regulatory Policy Manager**  
AAT  
Closes 06.11.17
- **Test Lead**  
AAT  
Closes 06.11.17
- **Customer Support Advisor (Training Providers and Employers)**  
AAT  
Closes 06.11.17

An AO should not provide Ofqual with any personal data unless it is requested by Ofqual.

If you are unclear what constitutes personal data or what is meant by processing, you should contact your own data protection officer or the [Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](#).

#### Qualifications Wales, Responsible Officer Letter QWCC1-033, Qualifications on Apprenticeship Frameworks in Wales

Earlier this week, Qualifications Wales (QW) issued a letter to responsible officers about qualifications on apprenticeship frameworks in Wales. The letter confirms that QW will be 'temporarily relaxing our requirements for designated qualifications where these are listed in apprenticeship frameworks in Wales'. The relaxation will apply until the end of October 2018. FAB welcomes this letter and the steps that QW have taken to support centres and awarding bodies in continuing to provide the qualifications that are required in apprenticeships in Wales.

The letter can be found here: [QWCC1-033, Qualifications on Apprenticeship Frameworks in Wales](#).

#### Reminder – is the Qualifications Wales Annual Awarding Body Forum in your diary?

This year, the Qualifications Wales Annual Awarding Body Forum will be held on Monday 11 December in the Marriott Hotel in Cardiff, Mill Lane CF10 1EZ. Registration will be from 09:30 and the event will finish at 16:00.

Qualifications Wales is in the process of finalising the agenda and will be sending invitations out very soon with instructions on how to register. A copy of the draft agenda can be found here: [Proposed Agenda for AB Forum 11th December](#).

If awarding bodies wish to book accommodation at the Marriott for the night before, Qualifications Wales has been offered a rate of £124 B&B. To secure this rate please call the hotel on 02920 399944 and quote 'Qualifications Wales Conference'. A number of rooms have been reserved until the end of next week. FAB advises that members may also want to consider consulting hotel booking sites which may offer more competitive prices such as [Trivago.co.uk](http://Trivago.co.uk) and [Booking.com](http://Booking.com) as earlier this week they were offering a room rate of £55 for the Marriott and the nearby Radisson Blu on the night of 10 December (excluding breakfast and with no cancellation period).

#### Qualifications Wales annual 'Scope of recognition' exercise

Qualifications Wales will be contacting awarding bodies in November to confirm their scope of recognition. This is a follow-up activity, similar to the activity that was carried out last year when the regulator asked all recognised awarding bodies to check that the records of what lay 'out of scope' were accurate.

Qualifications Wales will send each awarding body the record of what has previously been agreed as outside their scope of recognition. Awarding bodies will be asked to check that the information is accurate and will have at least 25 working days to respond.

The Recognition team is happy to discuss any queries or issues you may have regarding the scope of your recognition and can be contacted using the following email: [recognitionandapproval@qualificationswales.org](mailto:recognitionandapproval@qualificationswales.org).

#### Qualifications Wales – Updates to QiW

Qualifications Wales has advised that six months before a qualification's Operational End Date on QiW, an automated email will now be sent to the relevant

#### Jobs at

[www.awarding.org.uk](http://www.awarding.org.uk)

- **Customer Support Advisor (Individuals)**  
AAT  
Closes 06.11.17
- **Customer Support Advisor (Operations)**  
AAT  
Closes 06.11.17
- **Centre Support Administrative Assistant/Receptionist**  
ABC AWARDS PART OF THE SKILLS AND EDUCATION GROUP  
Closes 06.11.17
- **Head of Product Management**  
ABE  
Closes 07.11.17
- **Administrator (Awarding Body)**  
ASA - AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION  
Closes 07.11.17
- **Principle Examiner for Functional Skills ICT**  
NOCN  
Closes 10.11.17
- **Principle Examiner for Functional Skills Mathematics**  
NOCN  
Closes 10.11.17
- **Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)**  
AAT  
Closes 10.11.17
- **Senior Quality Consultants ( three posts available)**  
CSKILLS AWARDS PART OF NOCN GROUP  
Closes 13.11.17
- **Administrator - Cskills Awards**  
CSKILLS AWARDS PART OF NOCN GROUP  
Closes 13.11.17
- **PR Officer**  
CILEX LAW SCHOOL  
Closes 13.11.17

awarding body contact. This email alert will remind awarding bodies that the qualification will become Withdrawn once the Operational End Date passes, and will give details of how to apply for further designation if necessary.

There is also a new Withdrawal form, replacing the previous Withdrawal/Surrender Form, which you can find on the 'Track' screen of QiW.

This new function will ensure qualifications are correctly maintained on QiW and is intended to be of benefit to both awarding bodies and centres. For any queries regarding these amendments, please contact [RecognitionandApproval@qualificationswales.org](mailto:RecognitionandApproval@qualificationswales.org).

#### The Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA) – 6 months on

The IfA has published information on its new website about the progress it has made in its first 6 months, including recruitment to the organisation and the route panels, approval of apprenticeship standards and the work of the Quality Alliance. The information also identifies key areas of work that IfA will need to focus on in the future, including: building on the Quality Statement and the outcomes of the consultation to develop a Quality Strategy; and building capacity and capability to effectively deliver the extended responsibilities around technical and professional education.

Further information can be found here: [6 months on](#).

#### Long-term apprenticeship model evaluation

The Department for Education (DfE) has developed a Long-term Apprenticeship Model to project apprenticeship volumes and total costs under the new apprenticeship system. DfE commissioned Cambridge Econometrics and FGB to evaluate the model design and advise on alternative or additional approaches that could enhance the model. DfE has published this review which concludes that:

- The modelling approach is considered suitable because of the simplicity and transparency of the approach.
- There is little rationale for overhauling the inputs and assumptions, given the limited data and evidence.
- Given the core roles of the model to project apprenticeship volumes and costs, the strengths of the outputs are that they are easily interpreted, and the results are broken down into different categories of interest to policymakers. The provisions for sensitivity analyses also seem adequate.

Further information can be found here: [Long-term apprenticeship model evaluation](#).

#### People and policy: A comparative study of apprenticeship across eight national contexts

The WISE Initiative has published a comparative study which examines apprenticeship in eight countries: Australia, Denmark, Egypt, England, Finland, Germany, India, and South Africa. The study combines analysis at the macro, meso, and micro levels to explore and define the incentives and disincentives for learners and employers to engage with apprenticeships, and to re-imagine apprenticeship policy and purpose. The report includes a focus on the demographics of apprentices, the challenges faced by apprenticeship systems, and the limitations of the research posed by the lack of comparable data on apprenticeship.

Further information can be found here: [People and policy: A comparative study of apprenticeship across eight national contexts](#).

#### Jobs at

[www.awarding.org.uk](http://www.awarding.org.uk)

- **Apprenticeship Administration Manager**  
CILEX LAW SCHOOL  
Closes 13.11.17
- **Business Support Administrator**  
OPEN AWARDS  
Closes 16.11.17
- **Head of Assessment Services**  
ACTIVE IQ  
Closes 17.11.17
- **External Quality Assurers**  
ASCENTIS  
Closes 22.11.17
- **Associates with Qualification Development and Assessment expertise**  
GATEWAY QUALIFICATIONS  
Closes 30.11.17
- **Chair of Examiners**  
NCC EDUCATION  
Closes 08.01.18

#### Minister appoints new apprenticeship ambassadors

The Minister for Apprenticeships and Skills Anne Milton has announced a series of apprenticeship ambassadors' appointments to encourage people from all ages and backgrounds to consider an apprenticeship. The ambassadors will champion the opportunities and benefits that apprenticeships can offer and will work across the UK to target specific areas and raise awareness.

Maria Caulfield MP, Stephen Metcalfe MP, Trudy Harrison MP have been appointed as ambassadors. It has also been announced that Helen Grant MP has replaced Nus Ghani MP as the Chair of the Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network, Trudy Harrison MP has been appointed as the Co-Chair of the Apprenticeship Delivery Board and Dominique Unsworth has been appointed as an SME Ambassador.

Further information can be found here: [Minister appoints new apprenticeship ambassadors](#).

#### National Apprenticeship Week 2018

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has announced the dates of the 11th annual **National Apprenticeship Week (NAW)** which will run from 5 to 9 March 2018. During the week, employers and apprentices from across England will come together to celebrate apprenticeships and the positive impact they have on individuals, businesses and the wider economy. More details will follow over the next few months and we will update members as further information is published.

#### Apprenticeship publications

Over the past couple of weeks, a number of apprenticeship related documents have been published, including:

- An updated list of the **funding bands** for apprenticeship standards
- New versions of the **Register of end-point assessment organisations and the Register of apprentice standards**
- An updated version of the Ofqual table 'Status of Ofqual quality-assured apprenticeship endpoint assessments'

#### Advanced learner loans applications: 2016 to 2017 (final)

The Department for Education (DfE) has published final information on the number and status of applications for advanced learner loans in the 2016 to 2017 academic year. The data shows that:

- The number of applications received for Advanced Learner Loans increased from 80,650 in the 2015/16 academic year to 93,660 in 2016/17. (However, this is taking into account 21,240 from 19 to 23-year-olds, who were able to apply for FE loans for the first time from August last year).
- The total value for loans approved increased from £195.2m in the 2015/16 academic year to £236.2m in 2016/17.

Further information can be found here: [Advanced learner loans applications: 2016 to 2017 \(final\)](#).

#### LRS: AO Event data change User Guide and AO User Guide

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has published a new document titled Event Data Change User Guide and a revised version of the Awarding Organisation User Guide. These documents are relevant to awarding organisations who wish to join, or who already use, the Learning Records Service (LRS).

Further information can be found here: [LRS: AO user guide and Awarding Organisation list](#).

### **ESFA: current notices of concern**

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has published an updated list of the colleges and training organisations with a notice of concern or serious breach under the ESFA approach to intervention. Further information can be found here: [Current notices of concern](#).

### **Prison Education Common Awarding Organisations – Tender Opportunity**

Following on from the recent market engagement event, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) have now published their tender opportunity through which they wish to utilise a light touch procurement process to appoint awarding organisations whose qualifications will be used in adult prisons across England for seven specified curriculum areas covering some 42% of learning delivery.

The use of those qualifications will be mandatory for the education providers appointed through the separate procurement processes when delivering learning in seven specified curriculum areas: Lot 1 – English; Lot 2 – English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL); Lot 3 – Mathematics; Lot 4 – Information and communication technology (ICT); Lot 5 – Catering and Hospitality; Lot 6 – Construction, planning and the built environment; Lot 7 – Cleaning and Facilities Management.

The award of this contract will be undertaken as a services concessions contracts complying with the Concessions Contracts Regulations 2016.

Further details about this opportunity including information on how to express an interest can be found here: [Prison Education](#). Navigate to “View Opportunities” situated on the left-hand side of the page. The opportunity is titled - Prison Education - Common Awarding Organisations.

### **New Erasmus + Call for proposals – Joint Qualifications in Vocational Education and Training**

A new call on Joint Qualifications in Vocational Education and Training (VET) is now open for applications, under the Erasmus + Programme, Key Action 3 - Support to Policy Reform.

The overall objectives of the call are:

- to increase the employability of young people and to contribute to the development of a highly skilled, qualified and mobile workforce from which companies should also benefit;
- to support joint developments in VET in Europe and strengthen overall its quality, relevance and attractiveness.

The specific objective of the call is to support the preparation or setting up of joint VET qualifications including at higher level or the improvement of such existing qualifications. The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects is estimated at 6 million €. Each grant will amount between 200.000 € and 500.000 €. It is expected to fund around 20 proposals.

The deadline for applications is 31st January 2018.

More details and all the relevant documents are available on the website of the [Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency \(EACEA\)](#). A helpdesk is available for any guidance and administrative support and you can contact [EACEA-EPLUS-VET@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EACEA-EPLUS-VET@ec.europa.eu) for assistance.

### ESOL strategy for England – progress update

In October 2016, the National Association for Teaching English and other Community Languages to Adults (NATECLA) took the lead in calling for the development of an ESOL strategy for England and launched the document 'Towards an ESOL strategy for England'. It has now issued a progress report, 'Towards an ESOL Strategy for England: How far have we got one year on?', detailing what has been done since the original document was launched.

### World Skills 2017

Members have no doubt seen coverage of World Skills 2017 which took place in Abu Dhabi. FAB wishes to send its congratulations to everyone who took part, especially those in Team UK and the medal winners.

Many articles have been published in the sector press and members may find the following of particular interest:

- the [TES report](#) of Anne Milton's invitation to cities from around the world that they 'should draw on the expertise of the UK to help them develop a "fit for purpose" apprenticeship system.'
- The [FE Week](#) article which provided information on the medal winners and provides a link to the full medal tables.

### Discount codes

The Department for Education (DfE) has published information about discount codes including:

- [Approved key stage 4 qualifications and discount codes](#) for reporting in the 2014 to 2019 school and college performance tables
- [Approved 16 to 19 qualifications and discount codes](#) for reporting in the 2014 to 2019 school and college performance tables.

### Destination data and outcomes based success measure

The Department for Education (DfE) has published destination measures data and outcomes based success measures, including:

- [Information on key stage 4 \(KS4\) destination measures provisional data](#) for pupils who finished KS4 in the 2014 to 2015 academic year.
- Data on [key stage 4 \(KS4\) and key stage 5 \(KS5\) students](#) going into education, employment and training destinations
- Statistics showing the [destination outcomes of learners completing further education training between 2014 and 2015](#) using longitudinal education outcomes data.

### Changes to Performance Measures at Key Stage 4 affecting early entry (Wales)

The Welsh Government has sent a letter to schools and other interested parties to update them on the changes to Key Stage 4 performance measures as a consequence of notable increases in GCSE early entry by schools in Wales.

Further information can be found here: [Changes to Performance Measures at Key Stage 4 affecting early entry](#).

### Further education reform programme evaluation

The Department for Education (DfE) has published a report on how, and to what extent, providers have implemented the changes in the further education (FE)

reform programme which began early on in Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government with the publication of Skills for Sustainable Growth (BIS, November 2010), a strategy document detailing the underpinning principles and early ideas behind the Further Education Reform Programme. This evaluation explores providers' experiences of the FE Reform programme to understand the impact it has had to date so that BIS can develop an evidence base to best inform decisions which will further affect future operations of the sector.

The report finds that broadly, although there are many challenges and problems and some specific failures, the FE system is adjusting in directions required by the new policies.

Further information can be found here: [Further education reform programme evaluation](#).

### Continuing vocational training survey

The Department for Education (DfE) has published the results of the fifth survey of UK employers exploring the nature and extent of the vocational training that they provide.

Survey findings includes:

- 86% of employers provided their staff with some form of CVT in 2015.
- Three in ten employees (30%) participated in CVT courses in 2015. This compares with 31% in 2010. Thus, there has been no significant change in this statistic over the last five years.
- 36% of all hours on CVT courses were devoted to mandatory training, such as that related to health and safety (26% in 2010).
- 31% of all hours on CVT courses were on courses leading to a nationally recognised qualification (30% in 2010).
- Technical, practical and job-specific skills were the most important focus of CVT courses.
- Employers most frequently identified team-working skills, job-specific skills, and customer handling skills as skills which would be important to the future development of their organisation.
- 24% of employers employed apprentices in 2015. Most of these did so in order to secure their organisation's future skills base.
- Where employers did not employ apprentices, this was most frequently because they did not see them as relevant to their organisation (43%); 16% said there were no vacancies/need for new staff; 12% said that apprenticeships were not available or suitable for their type of activity

Further information can be found here: [Continuing vocational training survey](#).

### FE Choices employer satisfaction survey 2016 to 2017

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has published the FE Choices Employer Satisfaction survey 2016 to 2017. The survey captures employers' perceptions on the quality of the training provided and the responsiveness of their college or training organisation to the employer's needs. The report shows that the overall level of employer satisfaction with the quality of training remains high.

The scores calculated for each college or training organisation enable comparisons about their performance to be made against other colleges and training organisations of the same organisation type and against all the colleges and training organisations which completed the survey and passed the necessary quality thresholds.

Further information can be found here: [FE Choices employer satisfaction survey 2016 to 2017](#).

### **Employer ownership pilot round 2: process evaluation**

The Department for Education (DfE) has published a report which assesses the efficiency and effectiveness of the employer ownership pilots, from employer bids to the monitoring arrangements.

Further information can be found here: [Employer ownership pilot round 2: process evaluation](#).

### **British Council Services for International Education Marketing (SIEM) conference**

The British Council Services for International Education Marketing (SIEM) conference is [open for registration](#). The conference will take place at [Glasgow SEC](#) on 6-7 December and if you book now you will receive the 'early bird' discount which will be available until 3 November.

### **OCR Policy Briefing**

These updates are provided courtesy of OCR. FAB would like to extend its thanks to OCR for permitting the sharing of these with members.

- [Latest from OCR Policy Briefing](#)

### **Pearson's Policy Watch**

These updates are provided courtesy of Pearson. FAB would like to extend its thanks to Pearson for permitting the sharing of these with members.

- [Latest from Policy Watch](#)

### **Dysg eNewsletter**

These updates are provided courtesy of Dysg, part of the Welsh Assembly Government. FAB would like to extend its thanks to Dysg for permitting the sharing of these ebulletins with members.

- [Latest from Dysg eNewsletter \(Post-11\)](#)

### **Department for International Trade (DIT)**

To sign up to the DTI newsletter for exporters click here:

- [Get the latest from Great Britain](#)

The latest version of the DTI webinar schedule can be accessed here:

- [DIT Webinar Schedule](#)