

# Covid-19 and Apprenticeships: Latest Update 27 April 2020

Latest updates on the government's guidance and other developments related to COVID-19 and apprenticeships is below.

## Version III of Government COVID-19 and Apprenticeships Guidance Published

The third iteration of the government's guidance on Apprenticeships and COVID-19 was published on Friday afternoon. There are still a number of outstanding policy questions (e.g. Frameworks, clarity on whether there will be any changes to expiry of levy funds), but the guidance does clear up some issues we have been awaiting clarity on.

The key changes include:

- More information on calculating wages for furloughed apprentices
- Clarification that a furloughed employee can start an apprenticeship. The policy make specific mention of furloughed employees.
- Information on collecting signatures. This has been contextualised for apprenticeships by referring to the published funding rule content on what we need signatures for.
- More information on flexibilities of end-point assessment.
- Flexibilities for English and Maths functional skills for Intermediate (level 2) apprentices – Qfqual has announced that apprentices due to take their EPAs up to 31 July 2020 will now receive a calculated grade for their functional skills assessment and the requirement to study towards and attempt the functional skills assessments at level 2 is suspended temporarily.
- Flexibilities on qualification certification. This new content allows employers and providers to accept alternative evidence for proof of completed mandatory qualifications before passing an apprentice through gateway.

Some additional presentational changes have also been made, so there will be some other changes from how the previous guidance was displayed.

You can access the guidance at the usual page [here](#).

As a reminder, the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education also has guidance on the current situation that can be found [here](#).

## IfATE Publishes List of Apprenticeship Standards allowed to carry out Online Assessments

The IfATE today published a list of around 70 apprenticeship standards where permission has been granted to carry out end-point assessments remotely during the coronavirus pandemic. You can read the full list (with links to further information for each standard) [here](#).

## Provider Relief Scheme Announced

The Government announced a new scheme on Friday to provide relief to training providers during the current COVID-19 disruption. This is welcome news for many of us who have been expressing concerns that many training providers needed additional support during this crisis. However, the new scheme has an extremely rapid turnaround time - providers must apply by Midnight on 30 April 2020. Successful applicants will be notified on or around 15 May 2020.

You can find out more about the scheme, including eligibility criteria, [here](#).

### **Our Post-Webinar FAQ Document**

We had hoped to be in a position to publish this document during the last week, however in light of the updated guidance we will be revising and updating our draft and will share responses to the FAQs as soon as we can this week. We appreciate your patience.

### **National Apprenticeship Awards Application Opening Postponed**

The government has announced that they are to postpone opening applications for the National Apprenticeship Awards 2020. They are currently looking at a revised model for the 2020 cycle which means the awards will not open for entries on Monday 20 April as originally planned. Updates will continue to be shared on the Awards website (<https://appawards.co.uk>), and the situation will be kept under review by the government over the coming weeks.

### **DfE scraps annual FE learner satisfaction survey**

The annual FE learner satisfaction survey has been scrapped for 2019/20 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Providers had begun collecting views via an online survey from 9 March and originally had until 26 June, though the government has now taken the decision to end the survey due to a combination of wanting to reduce burdens and focus needing to shift to other data collection methods during the crisis. DfE will inform providers of the launch of the learner satisfaction survey for 2020/21 when a new date has been agreed.

Best wishes

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**COVID-19: information for councils**