



**Institute for Apprenticeships
& Technical Education**

END POINT ASSESSMENT (EPA) PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE MEETING

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1. The Institute's Priorities for EPA
2. Previously raised queries:
 - Readiness of EPAOs
 - Consistency of EPAOs
 - The cultural shift needed for employers who have previously dealt with frameworks
 - The differences between pass / merit / distinction



THE INSTITUTE'S PRIORITIES FOR EPA

- 1. Raise the quality of EPA by increasing their validity (including reliability and consistency)
 - a. Continue to improve support for Trailblazers and Route Panels
 - b. Continue to improve the clarity of EPA plans
 - c. Continue to improve the EQA provision for all plans (including consistency)

- 2. Deal with challenges being encountered in plans that are 'approved for delivery'
 - Mechanisms for dealing with these:
 - a. Provide clarifications to EPAOs from EQA providers
 - b. Recreate the plan as business as usual

READINESS OF EPAOs

- ESFA is moving to a period of market management
- EPAOs have to be ready to deliver with 9 months of coming onto the register
- Readiness checks are carried out by the ESFA
- Where necessary, EPAOs are overseen to get to the point of readiness to maintain their status on the RoEPAO

CONSISTENCY OF EPAOs

- Increasing consistency being built into EPA plans – removing ambiguity, being more prescriptive
- This is the function of EQA and a key requirement of their role

THE CULTURAL SHIFT NEEDED FOR EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY DEALT WITH FRAMEWORKS

- There needs to be a shift across the system
- Employers are now at the centre of apprenticeships
- The Institute is working on guidance for employers

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PASS / MERIT / DISTINCTION

- Pass represents full occupational competence
- Most new EPA have only 2 grades above Fail
- Some have dispensation from the Institute to use only Pass and Fail
- EQA providers have a key role in establishing consensus of understanding



DISCUSSION POINTS

- What could the Institute do or produce to help trainers prepare apprentices for EPA?
- What do you think are the most valid assessment methods for EPA and why?
- What could ESFA do to help trainers prepare for EPA?
- What have been the advantages and disadvantages to stakeholders (apprentices, employers, trainers) of the Standards approach?