



Department  
for Education



# **GMLPN Conference**

Funding Rules 2023-2024 and  
beyond...

28 June 2023

## Simplification

- As part of work on simplifying the apprenticeship system, we committed to making it easier for employers and providers to support high-quality apprenticeships.
- We committed to undertaking a wholesale review of the apprenticeship funding rules for 2023-2024.
- This review included talking with a range of stakeholders to get their views on the barriers / issues with the rules – we asked them to propose resolutions as well as highlighting the challenges.
- In parallel, the team undertook a line-by-line review of each section of the existing rules with the aim of removing / simplifying wherever possible, whilst retaining rules that are key.
- This work resulted in a number of significant changes to our approach to the rules for 2023/2024.

## Presentational changes

- **Earlier publication** – stakeholders told us that earlier publication of the rules would give them more time to plan for and implement any changes required in their systems and processes. We therefore published the initial version of the funding rules four months before the start of the 2023-24 AY and two months earlier than last year;
- **Consolidation of three separate rules documents into one** – stakeholders told us that three different rules documents added complexity and created duplication in content. We have therefore combined the previous rules documents into a single document for all audiences. To ensure that all parties are clear on their responsibilities, we have made clear any differences in rules for different parties;
- **Removing unnecessary rules and duplication, and simplifying language** – in combining the three previous documents we have undertaken a line-by-line review of the rules, removing unnecessary content and re-structuring a number of the sections. This review has contributed to a reduction in the wordcount of almost 30% compared to the previous main provider rules document; (To make the rules more accessible for readers there is more white space within the document, so while the number of pages may not have reduced, the wordcount has significantly.)
- **Reviewing evidence requirements and including them at the end of each section** – this helps readers understand the evidence requirements associated with each section of the rules, rather than listing everything at the end of the document.

## Simplification Work – Headline Funding Rule Changes

- We made changes to Active Learning, Breaks in Learning and Progress Reviews which will reduce the administrative burden for providers
- We revised the Care Leaver Bursary Policy
- We removed the requirement for providers to evidence that they have asked the employer to use Find my Apprenticeship.

## Changes already planned

- We will seek to introduce system based eligibility checks for employment status
- EPAO
- Employer Responsibilities one pager
- Employer Agreement Update
- We will explore if we can confirm key areas of the rules as 'fixed' that will not be subject to change In January each year.

## Areas we have been asked to consider

OTJ out of hours – ‘homework’

Overseas tutors – can a tutor be based abroad?

On-line learning – do we place any limits?

Alignment of eligibility rules with ‘right to work’

Eligibility of apprentices working on-line in devolved nations for English employers

## Areas we should be considering

Which Funding Rules should we be reviewing for 24/25?

**Department for Education**

© Crown copyright 2022