

Digital Skills Newsletter

FLASH UPDATE 12

Product update

In development

The latest Standards' developments are currently on track to be available for registration by the Summer. Two of these are already at the materials review stage, with the other two products getting their first review at the end of February. This is the state of play for each:

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Data Analyst:

First review completed

Information Communications Technician:

First review completed

Network Engineer (new):

First review due end of February

Software Developer (new):

First review due end of February

End Point Assessment Exemplars

While most of the digital Standards have exemplar material to help centres, their employers and apprentices understand how the End Point Assessment (EPA) operates and provide guidance on good practice, we did not have material for all the Standards we offer. This is being rectified and we have commissioned consultants to develop material for the new Standards, starting once the final EPA Centre Guides have been signed off. Existing products that will have new material:

Unified Communications Technician:

Being reviewed prior to upload to SmartScreen

IT Technical Salesperson:

Being reviewed prior to upload to SmartScreen

Cyber Security Technologist:

Finalising the development

Please note that all these products are still operating under the holistic EPA approach of the original Digital Trailblazers, so the guidance is similar but the examples/context has been tailored to the relevant Standard.

Apprenticeship Training Manuals (ATM)

A reminder that there is an existing ATM for Unified Communications Technician, which will be reviewed to see how we can adapt this to the new Information Communication Technician. In development we currently have the **Digital Support Technician** it has been delayed slightly due to our key consultant's involvement with Covid vaccine and vaccination centre set-up. However, we are still looking to have this available sometime after Easter.

Expected Publication of revised Standards by IfATE

IfATE will only publish the new/revised Standards once a letter of funding allocation has been sent to the Employer Group. They would normally wait 90 days from the date of the letter before we would see the new Standard available on the IfATE website and it being open for ILR registration.

Some the Digital Employer Groups wanted time gap drastically reduced to 36 days, but had to agree to 56 days from funding letter to publication. There are revised Standards that have yet to receive sign off from the Minister and the funding letter has not been sent. Only Network Engineer and Cyber Security Technologist have been allocated funding (14 January) and we expect their publication to be at the end of March.

16 February 2021

Getting involved with IfATE reviews and staying up-to-date

As discussed in the recent webinar, you can get involved in the Standards reviews or just simply watch what is happening to those being revised or new proposed Standards in progress.

All routes - <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/reviews-and-consultations/route-reviews/>

General status update - <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/developing-new-apprenticeships/revisions-status-report/>

Assessment mitigation 2020-2021

Nothing has changed as yet, we now await the outcomes from the Government following the consultation that took place in January. Please make sure that they have the latest Adaptation documents that can be found using this link.: <http://bit.ly/CGMitigation20-21>

City & Guilds already has a team in place to cover the possible scenarios and our own wishes to offering you alternative assessment methods to progress your learners and enable them to complete their programme.

Applying Adaptations

If you need to use the adaptation then you need to inform us that you are going to do so, when you get to the Adaption webpage you will be able to locate the form.

The document you should be download and keep to hand are (for period of: September 2020 – Summer 2021):

- Qualification and Assessment Guidance
- 2020 – 2021 Adaptations Digital and IT
- Adaptations for Technical Qualifications (if appropriate)

Please check the Covid-19 pages daily, as we will be updating them as we get information:

[Covid-19 | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/covid-19)

Make sure you and colleagues (whatever sector the work in) are signed up to the email updates, this is how we and City & Guilds central operations send messages that you need:

[Email Updates | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/email-updates)

Any issues, please send you enquiries to adaptation.quality@cityandguilds.com

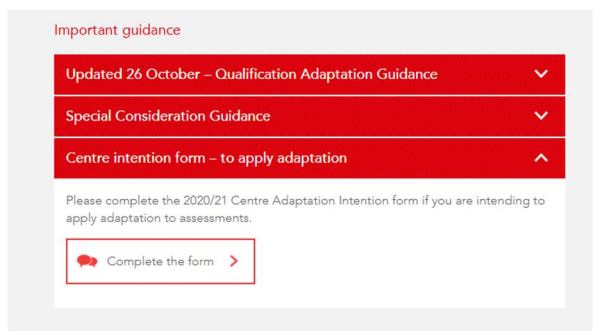
Funding webinar

SAVE THE DATE: 4 March

Make sure you check out the events page if you have not selected Funding updates in the Preference area for Email Updates (we call them Focus Alerts). If other colleagues in your organisation should be attending this webinar, please pass on the details and get them to register.

The webinar will cover the following topics:

- changes to the AEB funding rules
- the new arrangements and funding rules for the L3 Adult Lifetime Skills Guarantee offer
- an overview of the FE White paper and what it might mean.



Adult Education Budget Procurement is open

Contracts will start on 1 August 2021. Full details including the specification and instructions to tender can be accessed via [Jaggaer](#), the DfE e-Procurement Solution portal. The bidding window closes at 10:00 on 22 March 2021

Apprenticeship Non-levy Contracts

ESFA will shortly be extending non-levy procured apprenticeship contracts (which expire on 31st March) to cover the 2021 to 2022 financial year.

From 1 April 2021, all new apprenticeship starts will be funded via the Apprenticeship Service, which means that if any employer wants to take on an apprentice, they must have an apprenticeship service account, including non-levy paying employers.

Allocation letters will be issued to training providers in early February. Contract extensions will be issued at the end of February, which should mean no gap in funding available to support non-levy delivery.

Adult Changes to the Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers (ROATP)

ESFA are implementing changes to the RoATP, which is due to reopen in May 21, to improve the quality of apprenticeship training so more potential providers/employer-providers will be able to apply to deliver apprenticeships. Changes include;

- Widening the current set of targeted entry conditions to allow more training providers to apply to the Register
- Providers currently on the Register that are not actively delivering may be considered for removal from the Register. No active delivery means within a period of six-months (not sure how this works for delivery suspended during the virus).
- Refreshing the Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers whilst strengthening the application process for those active providers that remain.
- Giving notice that the Conditions of Acceptance have been updated and will be effective 10 May 2021.

Any providers or employers that have been waiting to apply but have been unable due to the Register not being open, May 21 is the target for the next application window. We can offer support and a webinar workshop is being planned to support applicants nearer to the date.

Princess Royal Training Awards

How impactful is your training? – can you or your employers meet the Three Hallmarks

Applications should demonstrate how the organisation's learning and development initiative has resulted in a positive impact on the organisation. It needs to include:

- How the organisation's strategy for improvement is supported by its commitment to training/ learning and development
- How the training programme is effectively managed to match the needs of individuals, and how it is cost effective
- How the initiative has sustainably supported the growth of the organisation and its employee

To find out more about submitting an entry for the PRTAs: <http://bit.ly/CGPRTA>

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To here from the Managing Director of the City & Guilds Foundation, who operate the PRTAs, BCS/Chartered Institute of IT Learning & Development Sub-Group are hosting a webinar on 23 February, to register: <http://bit.ly/36fKdG8>

Digital Marketer – call to arms

The Marketing Assistant and Digital Marketer Employer Groups have been brought together. We need employers on this Trailblazer Group if you and they wish to see the Digital Marketer continue either as a Standard or with a definitive Pathway and the title of the Marketing Assistant be changed to reflect that incorporation.

EMAIL US with any employers willing to be on this board for a meeting on 4 March.

Reminders

EPA Pro

City & Guilds apprenticeship management programme designed for use with End Point Assessment Standards. For more information and update on migration: <http://bit.ly/CGEPAPro>

Traineeships and AEB in Digital and IT Sector

For those working in the digital curriculum area this presents two opportunities: delivery of digital and IT Traineeships or AEB 19 + funded programmes, and delivery of digital skills for other sector teams.

For more information and update on Traineeships: <https://bit.ly/CGTraineeships2020-2021>

Updates and webinars – and more

Are you still a bit unsure as to how some of the things around Apprenticeship Standards work or just want a reminder of some of the things we have discussed at events and on webinars? Then, please visit our Updates and Webinars page.

<http://bit.ly/CGDigitalUpdate>

Please check out the information held there as this may answer many of the questions you have.

Next webinars

9 March 2021 (09.30 – 10.30)

<https://bit.ly/CGDigital9March>

30 March 2021 (09.30 – 10.30)

<https://bit.ly/CGDigital30March>

20 April 2021 (09.30 – 10.30)

<https://bit.ly/CGDigital20April>

If you have any specific topics you would like discussed at these events, please forward your suggestions to:

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OR

David Wackett

david.wackett@cityandguilds.com

Note from David and Ken

We always urge you to Stay Alert and Stay Safe. Please make sure you check the Covid-19 webpage.

www.cityandguilds.com/covid-19