

October 2018

Welcome to this month's Sector Round-Up where we highlight policy updates and important news from across our sector.

Top Stories



UK Government announces 25% levy transfer in apprenticeship reform package

The Treasury's reforms include increasing the amount of unspent funds to the supply chain from 10% to 25%, £5m extra funding for the Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA) to introduce new standards and update existing ones and to consult on the operation of the levy post-2020.

[Read More](#)



Chancellor announces utility regulation review

Philip Hammond has tasked the National Infrastructure Commission with carrying out a study into the regulators of telecoms, energy and water following his speech at the Conservative Party Conference. A Junior Treasury Minister also suggested that they could be merged into a single watchdog.

[Read More](#)



500th Apprentice Celebrated at House of Lords

The Energy & Utilities Independent Assessment Service celebrated passing the 500-mark of apprentices completing end-point assessment on the new English apprenticeship standards at a special event at the House of Lords.

[Read More](#)



Scottish Government launches strategic plan

The Scottish Government's Enterprise & Skills Strategic Board has published its strategic plan this month, outlining a series of actions for Scotland's five enterprise and skills agencies and a blueprint to Government, aimed at driving productivity and inclusive growth.

[Read More](#)

Policy Updates

Welsh Assembly release briefing on water industry in Wales

The Senedd briefing provides an overview of the water industry, including relevant legislation, the devolution settlement, Welsh Government policy and the roles and responsibilities of key organisations. [Read more.](#)

Committee calls for water regulation review and for compulsory smart metering by late 2019

The Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Committee has released a report on regulation of the water industry, suggesting that by the end of 2019 water companies should be allowed to implement compulsory smart metering and that Government should commission an independent review of whether the industry and regulation are fit to meet future need. [Read more.](#)

Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) release further guidance on T Level industry placements

The ESFA has published further guidance following the completion of the placement pilot and subsequent consultations. It includes commentary on provider responsibility, financial support for employers and student satisfaction. [Read more.](#)

The apprenticeships ladder of opportunity: quality not quantity

The House of Commons Education Committee's report focuses on the twin challenges of improving apprenticeship quality and promoting social justice. While it recognises the good work being done, it calls for clearer oversight of apprenticeship training and assessment and a tougher approach to poor quality training. [Read more.](#)

Reviews and Consultations

Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA) consults on T Level content

The IfA is seeking input from providers, awarding organisations and employers on the draft content for three new T Level pathways. [Read more.](#)

Help shape National Occupational Standards and qualifications in water

Energy & Utility Skills' programme of reviews for National Occupational Standards (NOS), Scottish

Vocational Qualifications (SVQ) and Modern Apprenticeships has begun with a review of Water NOS. An [online consultation](#) on the revised NOS in water is now open for feedback until 19 November 2018.

Developing a new curriculum for Wales

The Children, Young People and Education Committee at the National Assembly for Wales is seeking written evidence on the progress and development of a new curriculum for Wales. The deadline for responses is 7 December 2018 at 5pm. [Read more.](#)

Consultation on ethnic pay reporting

Views are being sought on how much information should be reported by employers to help address the disparities in pay and promotion opportunities between different ethnic groups that were found in an audit last year. The deadline for responses is 11 January 2019. [Read more.](#)

Other News

Chief Economist announced as Industrial Strategy Council Chair

Andy Haldane, the Bank of England's Chief Economist, is to be appointed the Chair of the Industrial Strategy Council. The independent Council will monitor the progress of commitments in the Industrial Strategy. [Read more.](#)

80% of employers confused over apprenticeship frameworks and standards

A report launched by Ofqual on vocational and technical qualifications found that only 20% of employers understand the difference between apprenticeship frameworks and standards. [Read more.](#) For an update on apprenticeship frameworks in England (including SVQ update) [click here.](#)

Labour leader vows to create 400,000 new green jobs

Jeremy Corbyn MP, Labour Party leader, announced plans to create 400,000 new skilled jobs with fresh investment in wind farms and insulation for homes, in his Party conference speech. He reiterated Labour's commitment to reduce the UK's net carbon emissions by 60% by 2030. [Read more.](#)

We need more core funding not 'initiative mania', FE sector tells MPs

Representatives from the Sixth Form Colleges Association, the Association of Colleges and the National Union of Students gave evidence to the Education Select Committee hearing on college funding. [Read more.](#)

All new apprenticeship standards to be introduced by August 2020

UK Government has committed to introducing all new apprenticeship standards in time for August 2020, rather than "by 2020" as previously stated. [Read more.](#)

West Midlands Combined Authority asks employers to support creation of £40m levy fund

The West Midlands Combined Authority is calling on employers to support a range of initiatives to develop skills in the region, such as supporting the creation of a £40m levy fund to invest in apprenticeships for SMEs in STEM and priority occupations. [Read more.](#)

Power Skills Scheme has gone live

The Power Skills Scheme, which enables power employers to demonstrate their commitment to delivering technical competence and ensuring the safety of their operational staff, has gone live. [Read more.](#)

Youth Voice Report launched

Youth Employment UK has launched its first census, Youth Voice. It found that only 51% of young people had access to work experience in secondary school and 49% were offered work experience in college or sixth form. [Read more.](#)

Talent Source Network exhibition stand visited by MSP Deputy First Minister

Talent Source Network exhibited at Skills Scotland at SEC Glasgow last week, meeting with school pupils, careers advisers and parents to talk about the breadth and diversity of career opportunities in the energy and utilities sector. John Swinney, MSP Deputy First Minister visited the exhibition. [Read more.](#)

New password for the Members' Area

A new password has been generated to maintain the security of the [Members' Area](#). The Members' Area contains exclusive online content that has been written for members only. This includes the most recent sector insights, policy analysis and the latest member communications.

To access these and other documents, you will need to be logged in. While the username remains static (eusmember), the password has been changed. The new password is:

Username: eusmember
Password:y*hYCB)nw)7UcGR6n(!aFPyM

For security reasons, the Members' Area password will be changed every three months.

If you have any feedback or queries, please contact **Victoria Elkington**, Membership Co-ordinator

Sector Awards

Double success in Utility Week Awards shortlist

Energy & Utility Skills and the Energy & Utilities Independent Assessment Service have been **shortlisted** in the Utility Week Awards. Energy & Utility Skills is in the running for the Utility Partner of the Year award and the Energy & Utilities Independent Assessment Service is a finalist for the Supply Chain Excellence award. Congratulations also to other finalists, which includes many of our members. The Awards will take place on 10 December. **Read more.**

Submissions now open for Gas Industry Awards

Entries are now being invited before the 1 March 2019 deadline for the Gas Industry Awards, which will take place on 15 May 2019. **Read more.**

Events

15-17 Nov, WorldSkills UK LIVE, NEC Birmingham. **Read more.**

27 Nov, Women in Water, London. **Kate Davies**, Chief Operating Officer at Energy & Utility Skills, will be among the speakers. **Read more.**

28 Nov, National Apprenticeship Awards, London. **Watch the finalists.**

10 Dec, Utility Week Awards, London. **Read more.**

17 Jan, Westminster Employment Forum: Priorities for Improving the Quality of Apprenticeships in England. **Dr Jacqueline Hall**, Associate Director of the Energy & Utilities Independent Assessment Service, will be speaking. **Read more.**

Visit <http://www.euskills.co.uk/events/> for more sector events.

Your News and Success Stories

If you would like to share your stories and success with the Sector Round-Up readership, consider sending details to communications@euskills.co.uk.



Join our group on LinkedIn for exclusive member updates and insights

For more information visit
euskills.co.uk



Our mailing address is:

Energy & Utility Skills Group
Friars Gate, 1011 Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 4BN

Please visit our [communication preference page](#) and let us know the type of communications you would like to receive from us. To find out more about how we use your information, please review our [privacy notice](#).