

# Policy Updates – February 2019

## Apprenticeships and Technical Education

The Energy & Utility Skills Apprenticeships and Technical Education Advisory Group ([ATEAG](#)) met at the [West Midlands Combined Authority](#) in Birmingham in February. Dr Julie Nugent, Skills Director, informed the group on the WMCA's advanced approach on maximising productivity and workforce resilience returns on employers' apprenticeship levy investments.

Dr Nugent heard from the meeting of the ATEAG's commitment and successes in influencing apprenticeships and levy policy, of the sector's higher than average levy recovery rate and of its pro-active approach to making apprenticeship and technical education reform work for the sector.

Dr Nugent was interested to learn that the ATEAG, which comprises 27 major companies across four nations and four industries, works across the UK to encourage coherence in skills policy, has established credibility with the Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA), was amongst the first to be invited to give evidence to the National Audit Office apprenticeship levy inquiry, has secured UK government agreement to increase the amount of unused Levy funds able to be passed from asset holders to their supply chain, and has minimised the impacts of sector apprenticeship funding band reviews.

The meeting went on to review the latest apprenticeships and technical education developments.

## Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers

The Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers re-opened at the end of last year. All apprenticeship training providers currently approved to deliver apprenticeships will have to reapply to the register. The latest guidance can be found [here](#).

## Apprenticeship Funding Band Review

The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) continues its review of apprenticeship funding bands with the Gas Engineering Standard (ST0155) and Water Process Technician Standard (ST0160) now entering the review process.

## T Levels

The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education ([IfATE](#)) took on responsibility for the development of the new Technical Level vocational education routes on 1 February. The first of the Awarding Organisations contracted to develop the new qualification that will sit within the T Levels have been announced as Pearson and NCFE. ATEAG is working with IfATE to ensure that the sector's needs are represented in the development of the new routes.

For further information on ATEAG, apprenticeship and technical education policy please contact [carl.jordan@euskills.co.uk](mailto:carl.jordan@euskills.co.uk)