

Policy Updates – April 2019

Workforce resilience

A number of water companies submitted their latest business plans to the sector regulator, Ofwat, on April 1, at the latest stage of the PR19 pricing review that will establish water pricing, service and incentive packages from 2020 to 2025.

Three companies received Ofwat's [draft determinations](#) in response to earlier submissions on April 11. Draft determinations for others' business plans will be published on 18 July, with all final determinations published on 11 December 2019.

The RIIO-2 pricing review will establish energy price controls to run for five years from 2021 for gas distribution, and gas and electricity transmission; and from 2023 for electricity distribution network operators. On 29 March Ofgem published its draft set of data templates and associated instructions and guidance for gas and electricity transmission and gas distribution network companies to use when submitting RIIO-2 business plans.

Energy & Utility Skills works with members to ensure that workforce resilience is an explicit consideration in [price control planning](#), and our latest video on Workforce Planning is [here](#).

Apprenticeships

The latest information on apprenticeship funding bands is [here](#). The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) is currently reviewing the funding bands for both the Gas Engineering Operative and Water Processing Technician standards, with their decision expected in the summer.

The latest data on apprenticeships and the apprenticeship levy is available [here](#). In order to support members' optimisation of the apprenticeship levy, and levy transfers, Energy & Utility Skills Apprenticeship and Technical Education Advisory Group (ATEAG) group have secured a dedicated teleconference with the Education and Skills Funding Agency's Head of Service Engagement on 26 April.

The Energy & Utility Skills Independent Assessment Service ([EUIAS](#)) which provides End Point Assessment for sector apprenticeships has now delivered over 900 successful apprentices and continues to keep the sector at the forefront of adapting to the Westminster policy reforms.

The Scottish Qualifications Authority have produced this [guide](#) to UK apprenticeships which summarises the apprenticeship policies of the UK's four nations.

T Levels

The first Engineering and Manufacturing T Levels are scheduled for delivery in 2022. The development of T Level content is directed by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE).

Members' commitment to the successful and effective development and delivery of T Levels will be voiced at the Energy & Utility Skills ATEAG meeting on 4 June at which senior

representatives from IfATE and from engineering workforce organisations are scheduled to attend. Energy & Utility Skills' T Levels FAQ can be found [here](#).

National Infrastructure Commission

Following Energy & Utility Skills response to the National Infrastructure Commission's scoping consultation last month, which can be found [here](#), the NIC have published this [piece](#) which discusses workforce inclusion.

Qualification Funding Consultation

A reminder that the Department for Education's consultation seeking views on its plans to withdraw public funding support for thousands of vocational qualifications as it advances its T Level programme is open until 10 June. Details of the consultation can be found [here](#).

For further information on ATEAG, apprenticeship and technical education policy please contact carl.jordan@euskills.co.uk