

Policy Updates – June 2019

Apprenticeships and Technical Education Advisory Group focus on T-Levels

ATEAG T-Levels meeting

The first Engineering and Manufacturing T-Levels are scheduled for delivery in 2022/23. The development of T-Level content is directed by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE).

Senior IfATE panel members attended the Apprenticeships and Technical Education Advisory Group (ATEAG) meeting on 4th June at Aston University. The development status, programme content and programme delivery plan for T-Levels were examined and discussion focussed on how members can support the Industry Placement element of the programmes and ensure that sector businesses are represented in the design and development process.

Updated T-Level guidance is published frequently; the latest overview of T-Levels can be found [here](#), and further information on Industry Placements [here](#).

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship performance

General performance data on the uptake of apprenticeships is published monthly by the Department for Education (DfE). The May 2019 report is [here](#) and shows that across all sectors there have been 285,000 apprenticeship starts in the current academic year, 61% of which are on apprenticeship standards. The Department also now make available a pivot table tool which can orientate reported data around specific standards or frameworks. A link to the pivot table tool is [here](#).

Apprenticeship levy transfers

The apprenticeship levy has been in operation for two years. The facility for levy-paying employers to transfer their unspent levy funds has been available since April 2018. The amount of unspent apprenticeship levy that can be transferred to other eligible employers is now 25% of the unspent funds. Levy funds in an employer's digital account that remain unspent for 48 months are recovered by the treasury. Data shows that since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy transfer facility there have been 270 apprenticeship starts as a result of apprenticeship levy transfers.

Following a meeting of the ATEAG group focussed on apprenticeship levy transfers, Energy & Utility Skills policy team is producing a paper to support members who are considering transferring unspent apprenticeship levy funds to other eligible employers. The transfer facility can create, for example, the opportunity for an employer to transfer unspent apprenticeship levy funds to any eligible employer that it wishes to support, not necessarily just employers in its supply chain.

Apprenticeship delivery

The latest publication of the apprenticeship standard funding bands is [here](#). The latest edition of the Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers [here](#), and the latest edition of the Register of End Point Assessment Organisations is [here](#).

Policy Outlook

Electric vehicle charging

With an increasing proportion of the UK's electricity now being generated from low carbon or no carbon sources, attention is focussing on the electrification of transport. The UK Government has set ambitions to ensure that almost every car and van in the UK is a zero-emission vehicle by 2050, and to make the UK a world leader in electric vehicle (EV) and battery technologies.

A key issue in achieving the electrification of road vehicles is the consistent availability of safe and reliable vehicle charging. A rapid increase in demand for charging installations would require the provision of a sufficient and appropriately skilled workforce. A recent report by the House of Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee, '[Electric Vehicles: driving the transition](#)' observed that the market for training, assessment and assurance of competence to install and maintain EV charging infrastructure remains at a very early stage of development. The Energy & Utilities Skills policy team will continue to monitor developments in this area to ensure that members are supported in the workforce skills area of this emerging field.

Policy on the future ownership of the energy and utilities sector

The Labour Party, as official Government Opposition, has published its ambitions to bring parts of the energy and utilities sector into national public ownership. The Opposition publication, [Bringing Energy Home](#) sets out a vision for the state ownership and management of the transmission and distribution networks and regional water companies. The potential workforce and skills impacts of the policy are substantial. The Energy and Utilities policy team will inform members as further details of the policy become available.

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