

## **Letter to all providers involved in Framework for Excellence in 2009/10**

We are writing to let you know about some important decisions that have been made about publishing Framework for Excellent (FfE) results in 2010 and the effect this will have on the planned timetable.

You should have seen communications from the Skills Funding Agency letting you know that dissemination of results was delayed by the recent general election and the subsequent need to discuss development and use of the Framework with new Ministers in both BIS and DfE. Those discussions are ongoing, although some key principles have already been agreed. These include:

- A desire to retain a robust method of measuring and reporting performance, (to underpin new flexibilities and freedoms) and to publish comparable information, in order to inform choices about where and what to learn;
- A pledge to reduce bureaucracy and burdens associated with disproportionate performance monitoring and reporting;
- A need to reduce costs in systems and processes;
- The removal of the requirement in non FE settings, to undertake learner and employer views surveys as a condition of 16-19 funding administered through DfE;
- Endorsement of the proposal to publish information about FE organisations in a 'labelling' format, as proposed by UKCES in '*Towards Ambition 2020*', drawing on data captured through Framework for Excellence.

The Skills Funding Agency is currently reviewing the data collected through the 2009/10 FfE exercise. We particularly want to work with the sector to move quickly to new ways of analysing and presenting comparable data, so that it is in line with presentation formats that we want to use in future.

### **What this means for publication of FfE results in 2010**

The data gathered by FfE in 2009/10 provides an excellent basis for publishing comparable information to inform learner choice – including qualification success rates, destinations information and - for those who remain in scope - the views of learners and employers. However, there may

be some changes needed, to make Framework data clearer and simpler for use by learners, employers and the public. This may differ from the planned formats described in previously published Framework Guidance or communications.

As a result of this, the Skills Funding Agency can only release the data to individual providers once this work has concluded. We expect this to be in the autumn and will let you know the revised date as soon as possible. In addition, we are rescheduling the final publication of results for the end of 2010. The exact date will also be notified as soon as possible.

Alongside this work, the National Improvement Partnership Board (NIPB) is working with the Skills Funding Agency, DfE and BIS to develop 'labelling' further. NIPB involves all lead partner organisations - including AOC, ALP, HOLEX, NIACE, SFCF and ASCL. More details of this work - including updates and information about how future Framework exercises will contribute to 'labelling', will be provided over the coming months. In addition, the DfE is setting up a new Quality and Performance Group to work with partners to develop the arrangements for quality and performance of education for 16-18 year olds.

If you have any questions about this communication, please contact the Framework for Excellence helpdesk by emailing [frameworkforexcellence@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk](mailto:frameworkforexcellence@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk) or telephone 02476 823970.



John Landeryou  
Director, FE Directorate  
BIS



Sue Baldwin  
Director, Young People's  
Participation & Attainment Group  
DfE