



Dear Employer,

Employer Incentive for supporting the Traineeship Programme – Update

I am writing this note to update you on the employer incentive scheme for all employers that have supported the Traineeship programme since August 2020.

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself – I am the Senior Contract Manager for BL Training. My role is to liaise with the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), the government departmental body responsible for funding Traineeships and Apprenticeships along with all aspects of education and skills in England. It is my responsibility to ensure all agreed contracts and agreements we hold with the ESFA are delivered and that BL Training have sufficient funding available to ensure we can support the skills growth of your business.

I work closely with the BL Training delivery team to ensure they understand the funding situations including the implementation of the employer incentive scheme for Traineeships.

I fully appreciate the delays in developing the system for this incentive and the subsequent delays in payment are causing difficulties both from a financial perspective but also from a relationship with BL Training perspective.

In response to the above point, the key points I would like to make are the following –

1. The employer incentive for Traineeships scheme is an ESFA funded programme and doesn't directly involve BL Training – the funding is an agreement between you and the ESFA and the system for claiming will be a direct claim to the ESFA
2. BL Training have been supporting you with intelligence regarding the scheme and have ensured the Trainees have the correct data on the funding systems to enable these learners to be eligible for the scheme
3. BL Training will continue to support you with all aspects of the claiming of the funds to ensure you receive the relevant funding in the most efficient and timely manner

We at BL Training were led to believe between August and December 2020 that the system for you to claim your eligible incentive would be available in 2020, December at the very latest. I was aware that the ESFA tested the online system in November and these tests were

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successful so there was nothing to suggest further delays would take place. However, the details of the online system remain unreleased and despite our ongoing lobbying for information, the ESFA are being unresponsive currently.

I would like to apologise on behalf of the ESFA and under the role as Senior Contract Manager at BL Training for the delays in the release of the funds you are eligible to. I would like to say that everybody at BL Training that work both directly with you and work on your behalf are doing everything they/we can to push the process through as quickly as possible.

Please liaise with BL Training delivery staff and work closely with them to ensure you are registering onto the relevant Employer Service system to ensure speedier access to the funding. We will continue to work on your behalf with the ESFA the Department for Education and as soon as further information has been released you will be made aware.

If you have any queries relevant to this matter, then don't hesitate to contact your BL Training contact and/or I am happy to field any questions directly on guy.saxton@bl-training.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

Guy Saxton

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