



The Manufacturing Technologies Association

UPDATED COVID-19 Apprenticeship Response 09-04-20

Full Article is available here: <https://bit.ly/34g8nOP>

As part of the cross-Government efforts to respond to the impact of COVID-19, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is implementing new measures, for the duration of the pandemic, to make it easier for apprenticeships to continue and complete in a different way if they need to or to break and resume an apprenticeship later when that becomes possible.

The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IFATE) has also published new guidance on the delivery of assessment at <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/response-to-covid-19/>

Covid-19 Apprenticeship programme response

In this difficult time, employers and training providers are doing their best for their workforce. We want to support that by ensuring that wherever possible apprentices can continue and complete their apprenticeship, despite any break they have to take as a result of COVID-19. Investing in the support of high quality apprenticeships is a vital part of supporting the economic recovery that will follow. We are committed to working with training providers, end-point assessment organisations and external quality assurance organisations to mitigate the impacts of this disruption and maintain the integrity of apprenticeships.

Our flexibilities will make it easier for apprentices to continue as an apprentice by enabling them to take a break from their learning or do their learning or assessment in a different way to that originally planned. As well as ensuring that employers will still have the skills they need for the future, it means that they can temporarily redeploy apprentices without ending their apprenticeship.

Arrangements for April and beyond

For a break in learning greater than 4 weeks that begins on or after 1 April:

- Your apprentices Training Provider will report this in their April Individual Learner Record (ILR) submission using the last day in learning, or in the month in which the break of learning commenced
- the apprenticeship should be 'paused' by the employer through the Digital Apprenticeship Service at the point the break in learning begins.
- It's important that the employer should not 'stop' the apprenticeship through the apprenticeship service as this will prevent it resuming subsequently

When the apprentice, training provider and employer are all ready for the apprenticeship to resume (after the COVID-19 pause) training providers will then update their ILR data in line with section 5.4

in the training provider support manual, to ensure accurate recording and earnings calculations. Training providers will not receive funding payments for apprentices during a break in learning.

For the avoidance of doubt, during breaks in learning it is not necessary for apprentices to comply with the minimum of 20% off-the-job training requirement. When the break in learning ends, and training resumes, the 20% off-the-job training requirement will apply over the remaining amended duration of the apprenticeship

Disruption to Assessment:

IFATE and Ofqual are both introducing flexibilities to enable apprentices to complete their apprenticeship whilst furloughed as long as whilst doing so they do not complete any work for their employer. Apprentices who are deemed ready for assessment, and cannot be assessed due to COVID-19 related issues, will be able to have their EPA rescheduled.