



Summary

Official ESFA apprenticeship register (RoATP) allows unlimited access to levy funding and co-funding for levied employers, but it is not full of the claimed 'top-quality' providers

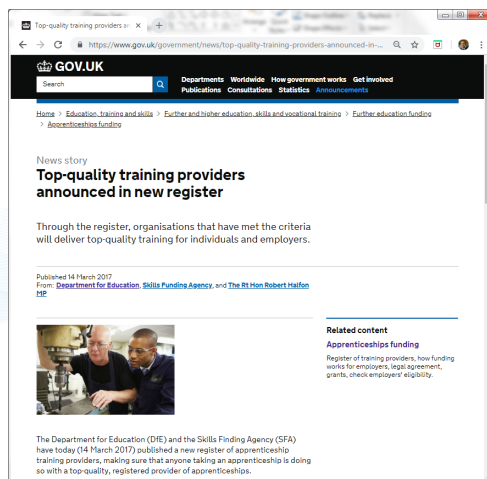
In fact, on RoAPT there are many of companies with no trading history, many not delivering anything

After scrapping plan for 4 application windows per year, RoAPT has been under review for over a year

So far, one in four Ofsted provider monitoring visits has resulted in the ESFA banning new starts

New RoAPT 'redesign' announced yesterday, which will be much tougher to get on to and those already on the register will need to reapply

Background: March 2017, apprenticeship provider register launched, ahead of levy delivery from 1 May



<https://tinyurl.com/y6vnp5m>

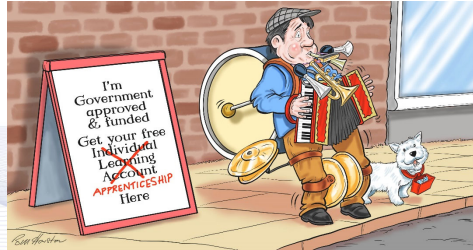


<https://tinyurl.com/y9btq4sg>

In May 2017 the ESFA publish register after 2nd application window, and still letting on 'companies' that had yet to even trade

'Alarming': ESFA still giving one-man bands access to millions

<https://tinyurl.com/y8aqysf3>



In Sept 2017 the ESFA said they conclude the 3rd application window but would then review the whole register. There have been no public application windows since then.

<https://tinyurl.com/y9k2nff7>

In 2018 Ofsted, concerned about so many new providers, secured £5.5m from DfE to undertake monitoring visits to all of them in next 24 months. <https://tinyurl.com/y78qr8on>

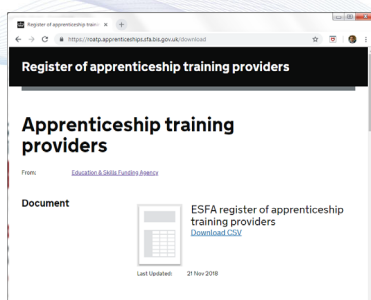
So far Ofsted has published 90 new provider monitoring visits, and one in four has been awarded an 'insufficient progress', resulting in the ESFA banning new starts until Ofsted undertake a full inspection within the following 24 months. <https://tinyurl.com/y9wcejt8>

Last month FE Week reported the permitted trade in buying your way on to the register (despite it being closed for applications) for as little as £50k.

<https://tinyurl.com/ya637wp8>

Current RoAPT

RoAPT provider type	Providers
Main provider - no limits (can also be an employer provider and subcontractor). Around 700 also have non-levy allocations	1,933
Employer provider - no limits but only your own staff	262
Supporting provider (subcontractor, limited to £500k per year)	381
Total	2,576



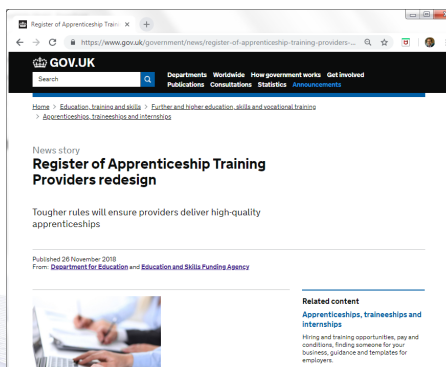
<https://roapt.apprenticeships.sfa.bis.gov.uk/download>

RoAPT 'redesign' with 'tougher rules'

Open for applications from 12 December 2018. Two applications per year permitted (using Bravo again)

Those already on RoAPT will need to reapply in 2019, starting with the highest risk profile

Still considering funding limits to restrict size and expansion



<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/register-of-apprenticeship-training-providers-redesign>

Key para: "To secure a place on the RoATP, providers and employers must now prove they have actively traded for 12 months [not 3], are financially stable (evidenced by their financial information), **skilled and are able to deliver quality apprenticeship training, before they apply**, rather than when they begin delivery. The 3-month trading history requirement for supporting providers has been retained to enable new providers to build a delivery track record."

RoAPT 'redesign' with 'tougher rules'

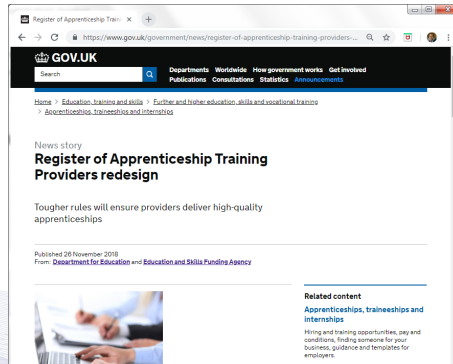
Also

“providers with an outstanding or good grade from Ofsted (no more than 3 years before applying) will be exempt from certain questions on the leadership and management of their delivery. This also applies to universities funded by the Office for Students.”

From August 2019

- > £100k threshold for subcontractors (including employers) scrapped - they will need to get onto RoAPT (e.g. as a supporting provider)
- > Supporting providers limited to £100k in year 1, before rising to £500k per year
- > Main and employer providers cannot act only as subcontractors

Further guidance here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-of-apprenticeship-training-providers>



<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/register-of-apprenticeship-training-providers-redesign>

New RoAPT webpages

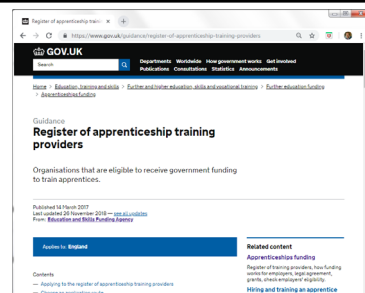
Highlights:

“ESFA will start to assess applications [via Bravo] on the first working day of each month for any applications received during the previous month. It usually takes around 12 weeks to assess an application, but it can sometimes take longer. We will keep you informed on the progress of your application.”

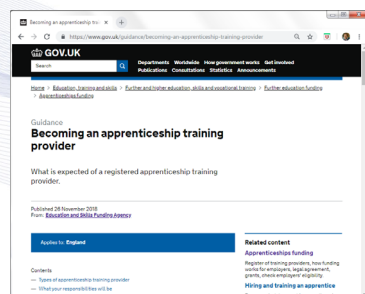
“If your application is unsuccessful, we will provide feedback. You will be able to apply twice within a 12-month period.” - unclear if there is an appeals process

Main provider applicants need to prove:

- > been actively trading for at least 12 months with financial information as proof
- > ability to train apprentices in the first 12 months & management structure that has experience of developing and delivering training



<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-of-apprenticeship-training-providers>



<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/becoming-an-apprenticeship-training-provider>

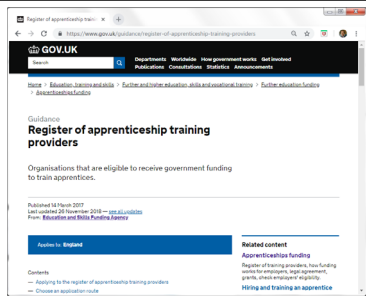
Application guidance

In your application, you must be able to provide evidence showing:

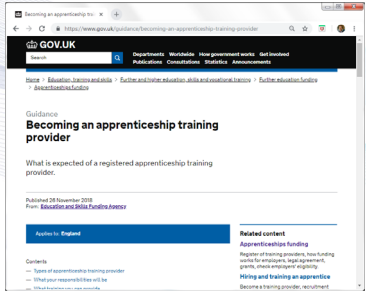
- who's involved with apprenticeships in your organisation
- your financial status and ability to meet any financial commitments
- how you evaluate the quality of training and outcomes
- how you assess prior learning
- how your leaders and managers document and define clear expectations of setting high standards for apprenticeship training
- your employees' experience in training including qualifications
- the process of professional development for your employees
- your plan for continuity of apprenticeship delivery as well as equality and diversity, safeguarding and health and safety policies
- how you engage with employers and your contracting arrangements with them (only main providers)
- the commitment statement template you will use to support the apprenticeships (only main or employer providers)

We will publish detailed application guidance when we open the register. It will explain:

- what you need for your application
- the application process
- the conditions of acceptance to the register that you'll need to agree to as part of making your application
- what happens after you apply



<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-of-apprenticeship-training-providers>



<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/becoming-an-apprenticeship-training-provider>

Q&A



