



2016-0037878PORH

Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP
Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills

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John Hemming
Chairman, Charity Tax Group
Church House, Great Smith Street
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6 October 2016

Dear Mr Hemming,

Thank you for your letter of 4 August and for your kind words on my appointment. I am honoured to have been appointed as Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills in the Department for Education. I am sorry for the delay in sending you a response.

I appreciate your concerns about funding of apprenticeships. As part of our apprenticeships reforms, employers will be given more control over choosing and paying for apprenticeship training. While only some employers will be required to contribute to the new apprenticeship levy, there will be changes to the funding of apprenticeship training for all employers. The new system should also be user-friendly so that any employer can navigate, choose the apprenticeship training required, and then negotiate on cost. This means that some of the complex funding arrangements should be simplified.

We have now published more information for employers to explain how the new system will work. The key document is our proposal for apprenticeship funding in England from May 2017. This sets out our initial proposal about future funding for apprenticeship training once the levy comes into effect next year. This includes proposed funding bands for existing apprenticeship frameworks and standards.

Updated documents are also available, which includes proposals for a new register of apprenticeship training providers; guidance for employers thinking about becoming apprenticeship training providers; and an apprenticeship funding calculator to help employers understand what they will pay and how they could use the new digital service to plan and fund training. The guidance document, '*Apprenticeship levy: how it will work*', gives employers a clear explanation of how they will pay the levy, and manage and use their funds in the new system. All documents can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/hug8v32>.

We continue to test our proposals further, including how they support the government's emerging industrial strategy. We want to ensure that individuals from all backgrounds and parts of the country have the opportunity to get on in life. We recently gave stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the new funding proposals through our consultation, which closed on Monday 5 September. We received over 900 responses, which we are currently reviewing, and we aim to publish further details on the levy by the end of October.

Thank you for your invitation to meet. Unfortunately, due to heavy pressures on my diary as I get on with my new role, I cannot commit to a meeting at this time. I do, however, look forward to working with you in the future.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Halfon', with a small flourish at the end.

Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP
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