

The low-wage paragraphs in the 2018/19 Adult Education Budget funding rules – version 1

Following last week's announcement of changes to AEB funding, ESFA have issued the following information:

If an employed individual meets the criteria set out in paragraphs 151.1 and 151.2 (see below), regardless of the hours they work, or their hourly rate, the individual would be eligible. Learners in receipt of low wage:

151. You may fully fund learners, who are employed and cannot contribute towards the cost of co-funding fees. You must be satisfied the learner meets both of the following:

151.1 is eligible for co-funding, and

151.2 earn less than £15,736.50 annual gross salary, based on the Social Mobility Commission's low pay threshold of £8.07 (hourly rate in 2016) and on the assumption of a 37.5hr contract with paid statutory holiday entitlement

ESFA will amend paragraph 152 in the 2018/19 Adult Education Budget funding rules – version 2 (which will include the performance management section), due to be published before the end of July. Subject to any further feedback they receive, the revised paragraph will be:

152. You must have seen evidence of the learner's gross annual wages in these circumstances. This could be a wage slip within 3 months of the learner's learning start date, or a current employment contract which states gross monthly / annual wages. Please note this is not an exhaustive list, but must support your decision to award full funding to an individual who would normally be eligible for co-funding. (TBC)