

The Institute for Apprenticeships

The Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA), announced last November, will be an independent, statutory body, responsible for ensuring the high quality of apprenticeships in England. It will enshrine the employer-led approach to apprenticeship reform in England – ensuring that employers are able to drive the content and quality of apprenticeships in a way which will deliver the skilled workforce that businesses need to prosper. We are legislating for the body through the Enterprise Bill. The relevant clauses can be found at the following link:

[Enterprise Bill - IfA](#)

What will it look like?

The IfA will be employer-led; an independent chair will lead the work of a small board made up primarily of employers, business leaders and their representatives, to ensure employers continue to drive apprenticeship quality to the highest level. The Chair and the Board members will be appointed through a public appointments process in 2016.

When will it be up and running?

We expect the IfA to be fully operational by April 2017 to support the implementation of the new apprenticeships levy, although it may start to undertake some work in 2016.

What functions will the IfA have?

The IfA will:

- develop and maintain quality criteria for approval of apprenticeship standards and assessment plans;
- support development of standards and assessment plans by employer groups and review and approve them;
- maintain a public database of apprenticeship standards and publish information illustrating potential gaps;
- advise Government on the maximum rate of Government funding (including that generated by the levy) that should be assigned to each apprenticeship standard; and
- have a role in quality assuring the delivery of apprentice end point assessments, where employer groups have been unable to propose employer-led arrangements.

It will not:

- be responsible for apprenticeships quality under the current framework approach (this will be phased out over time);
- develop standards itself or directly stimulate employers to develop standards for potential gaps;
- inspect training provision (to remain with Ofsted);
- regulate qualifications which are used in apprenticeship standards (to remain with OFQUAL and, for professional qualifications, with the professional body);
- inspect/regulate HE provision (to remain with the relevant HE organisations);
- be responsible for quality assuring on the job training provided by employers in the workplace; or
- operate outside of England – statutory apprenticeship training is a devolved matter