

PROCUREMENT MA Procurement

Tender documents for Modern Apprenticeship procurement in 2019-20 are expected to be published on the PCS website in mid to late December.

As in previous years, the Scottish Government will publish its budget (12 December) confirming the funding allocation to SDS for MAs – and this will allow SDS to commence its procurement process.

STF will alert members when a specific date is confirmed.

STF NEWS STF AGM 2018

Fifty members attended the STF AGM on 21 November. Two Directors were re-appointed for a three-year term: Peter Leitch and Maria Roushias. Two new Directors were appointed – Maureen McCann (The Tell Organisation) and Arlene Callan (PeoplePlus).

Members discussed key issues of concern – including: ongoing problems with FIPS validation; increased administration burden; uncertainty surrounding the future of the Employability Fund.

A Members' Meeting following the AGM included presentations on: Cyber Resilience, Foundation Apprenticeships and an update on National Training Programmes. Copies of the presentations can be downloaded from the Member section of the STF web site.

STF NEWS STF meets with SDS

Members of the STF Board will meet with senior SDS officers on 13 February 2019 to discuss member issues. If you have an issue that you would like raised at the meeting, please contact stuart.mckenna@stf.org.uk

STF NEWS

Foundation Apprenticeship procurement

Changes to the procurement process for the current round of Foundation Apprenticeships have been welcomed by the STF Chair. For the first time, independent training providers are able to submit a tender as a lead bidder.

STF Chair, Ian McCulloch, said 'We welcome this change which will help training providers to engage more fully in this expanding programme.'

Two workshops – aimed at helping training providers to better understand the Foundation Apprenticeship procurement process – have been held for STF members in the last few days.

Skills Development Scotland is currently inviting proposals to deliver Foundation Apprenticeships across Scotland for participants commencing in academic year 2019. Details have been published on the [PCS web site](#). The closing date for the receipt of tenders is 10 December (12.00 noon).

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Review of Scottish Government funded Employability Programmes

The Scottish Government is expected to provide more details about the review of its funded employability programmes at an event in Edinburgh on 5 December. The Ministerial Summit on Employability is expected to provide details about the future direction of travel with employability programmes in Scotland – including the future of the Employability Fund (EF).

STF understands that EF is likely to continue in 2019-20, although there may be changes to volumes. However, it must be stressed that Scottish Government has given no firm commitments at this stage. The Ministerial Summit should indicate the immediate future of EF – and information about any procurement is not expected until after the publication of the Scottish Government budget on 12 December.

STF will alert members with announcements as they take place.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

QA and Improvement Framework RAG Ratings

The new SDS Quality Assurance and Improvement Framework was introduced in April 2018. One feature of the new Framework is the RAG rating given to each provider following an audit – and SDS is keen to get feedback from providers on the usefulness of this rating. Accordingly, a two-hour focus group will be held in Glasgow on Tuesday 11 December to discuss the RAG Ratings. STF Members who have already been audited are encouraged to attend the meeting to provide feedback. [More details.](#)

Forthcoming workshops, meetings and events

11 December 2018

[QA RAG Ratings](#)

City & Guilds, Glasgow

13 December 2018

[STF Care Forum](#)

City & Guilds, Glasgow

Tbc January 2019

SQA/STF Focus Group

SQA, Glasgow

Tbc January 2019

Employability Review Update

Venue tbc

13 February 2019

SDS/STF Joint Meeting

Glasgow

Tbc February 2019

SAAB Apprenticeship Review

Update

Venue tbc

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

New website for parents and carers

Skills Development Scotland has launched a new website to help parents and carers understand current and future jobs in demand, the routes into these jobs, and tips on having career conversations at the times that matter.

[My Kids Career](#) includes up-to-date labour market information showing the skills and occupations which are in-demand now in Scotland, and emerging career paths for the future. Visitors can also access information on the routes into these roles, from apprenticeships to university.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

Job vacancy – SDS – MA Business & Administration

Skills Development Scotland has a fantastic opportunity in its Service Design and Innovation Directorate for a Modern Apprentice in Business and Administration.

[More details.](#)

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Scotland's Devolved Employment Services

The Scottish Government has published statistics for the first six months of Fair Start Scotland, which launched in April 2018, and the first eighteen months of Work First Scotland and Work Able Scotland, which both launched in April 2017.

New statistics reporting on Fair Start Scotland are included for the first time. Numbers of people referred to ('referrals') and subsequently joining the service ('starts') is presented, along with demographic information for starts. [More details.](#)

HOSPITALITY

Scottish Personal Licence Holder Qualification

People 1st has been contracted by the Scottish Government to conduct an independent review and revision of the current Scottish Personal Licence Holder and Refresher Qualifications and is now conducting a consultation to help inform the first stage of this review to ensure the National Standards on which these qualifications are based is up to date, fit for purpose, reflects legislative changes and meets the current and future needs of industry. [More details.](#)

MEMBER NEWS

Job vacancies – SECTT

Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT) manages the Electrical Installation programmes on behalf of the Scottish Joint Industry Board (SJIB). SECTT has two opportunities to join an expanding team. The first is for a Finance/Office Manager – and the second is for a Personal Assistant/ Administrator. [More details.](#)

MEMBER NEWS

Job vacancies – Training Matters

Training Matters is recruiting a Coach/Assessor and Admin Coordinator. The Coach/Assessor role is a maternity placement with the possibility of a permanent role. The Admin role will focus on qualification accreditation requirements and SDS funding compliance. [More details.](#)

MEMBER NEWS

Job vacancy – Coach Employability Fund – PeoplePlus

PeoplePlus is looking for a Coach to join our team on a fixed term basis for a period of 12 months. The successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of programme delivery, delivering pre-employment training programmes at Stages 3 and 4 of the Employability Fund. [More details.](#)

Email your news stories to: stuart.mckenna@stf.org.uk

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