

STF NEWS

Minister to speak at STF Annual Conference

Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Employability and Training, will be a keynote speaker at the STF Annual Conference and Awards on Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 September 2018.

Information about other speakers will be published in due course.

A brochure outlining Delegate Packages and Sponsorship Opportunities is now available to download from the [STF web site](#).

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

SDS Letter of Guidance

Scottish Government has published its annual Letter of Guidance to Skills Development Scotland, outlining the strategic priorities the agency should pursue in 2018-19.

A summary of the key points will be published in next week's Update, but for those who can't wait, a copy of the document is available on the [STF web site](#).

STF NEWS

STF Update

STF Update has not been published for the last four weeks due to annual leave and IT problems. But it's business as usual again and members can expect to receive the newsletter each week. Sincere apologies for the break in service.

STF NEW

MA Contribution Rates

STF is continuing to lobby Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland on the inadequate funding rates for specific MA Frameworks, including Hospitality, Glass and Hairdressing. Members are asked to continue to highlight their concerns with rates to the Chief Executive and [Board of Directors](#).

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Flexible Workforce Development Fund to continue

The Scottish Government has confirmed that the £10 million Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF) will continue for a second year in 2018-19. As in the pilot year 2017-18, the fund will continue to be administered by colleges. An independent evaluation of the pilot year is currently underway and it is expected that any significant lessons learned from this will be used to inform its future delivery.

STF has asked the Minister with responsibility for the FWDF, Jamie Hepburn MSP, to give consideration to extending procurement of the fund to employers and independent training providers as well as colleges – and to increase the size of the fund – but he has ruled out both of these requests for the time being. STF will continue to seek changes to the way the FWDF is administered and delivered to ensure that it delivers the maximum return to the taxpayer.

EMPLOYABILITY

The future of the Employability Fund

STF has set up a short life working group with the purpose of building a case for the continuation of the Employability Fund (EF).

The Scottish Government ['No One Left Behind'](#) consultation on the alignment and integration of employability provision in Scotland will encompass EF. Accordingly, it is important that STF members engaged in the delivery of the programme are given the opportunity to articulate its impact and benefits into the review process.

Employability Minister, Jamie Hepburn MSP, has declined to speculate on the future of EF, noting that it will be subject to the results of the review. Discussions with stakeholders – including STF - will be undertaken over the summer with recommendations to the Minister being made in the Autumn.

The STF working group will meet in Glasgow on 17 May to agree an action plan – which will include seeking feedback from all members. More details about the group are available from [Stuart McKenna](#)

MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS

Business as usual for People 1st Apprenticeships in Scotland

The Workforce Development Trust has acquired key strategic elements of People 1st which went into administration last week.

The acquisition will allow People 1st to continue as a standalone organisation, enabling it to continue focusing on its key activities including work in the devolved nations. Accordingly, existing processes for the registration and certification of People 1st Apprenticeship Frameworks in Scotland remain unchanged.

Forthcoming workshops, meetings and events

22 May 2018

[SQA/STF Focus Group](#)
SQA, Glasgow

31 May 2018

Workshop: [Foundation Apprenticeship Procurement](#)
SCQF, Glasgow

1 June 2018

Workshop: [Dealing with disability in the workplace](#)
SCQF, Glasgow

6 June 2018

Workshop: [Scottish Apprenticeship Awards/SDS Marketing](#)
City & Guilds, Glasgow

8 June 2018

Workshop: [Scottish Apprenticeship Awards/SDS Marketing](#)
Premier Inn, Edinburgh

STF is still intent on running workshops on the implications of GDPR for training providers. More details to follow.

STF NEWS

Ignore the junk email!

Several members have reported receiving junk email from a marketing company offering to supply delegate information for the 'Scottish Training Federation 2018'.

For clarity, STF does not share member details with a third party. This is simply a speculative email from a marketing company and members are advised to delete emails and block the sender.

STF has asked the company to desist from sending these emails, to no avail. Members are encouraged to contact the Chief Executive if they are unsure about any email received purporting to originate from STF.

MEMBER NEWS

Help improve SQA's website

SQA is looking for participants to take part in a feedback session to help improve its employer and training provider website. If selected you receive £50 voucher as thank you.

Who? Employers or training providers.

When? One hour slots between 14-25 May.

Where? SQA Glasgow office (Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8DQ)

What happens?

- The session lasts about an hour
- We ask you questions about our website
- We record the session for evaluation (only used internally)
- You receive a £50 Amazon voucher as a thank you

Want to help? Contact gemma.watson@sqa.org.uk

MEMBER NEWS

Job vacancy – Limelight Careers

Limelight Careers is looking to recruit a Scottish Vocational Qualifications Assessor for Business Administration, Customer Service and/or Financial Services.

The post is based in Edinburgh. The closing date for applications is 31 May 2018. Interested parties should send a current CV to Caroline McFarlane on email: caroline@limelightcareers.co.uk

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Increasing the Employment of Disabled People in the Public Sector – Consultation

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on increasing the employment of disabled people in the public sector:

The consultation sets out on-going commitment to support disabled people into sustainable and fair work, as well as to stay in work if their disability or health issues become worse. It focusses specifically on what more can be done to support more disabled people into work in the public sector.

The consultation is open from 30th April – 15th August 2018 and is aimed at public sector bodies, Disabled People's Organisations and disabled people.

[Click here for more details.](#)

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

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