

FUNDING WATCH

2008/9

24 October 2008

Further Flexing of the Funding for Train to Gain

Further to the additional flexibilities added to Train to Gain back in June 2008 (click [here](#) for the Funding Watch), the Government has now announced [more additions and flexibilities](#) to the Train to Gain package. These will be delivered using £350 million of Train to Gain money, and will focus specifically on small businesses.

The announcements re-iterate some of the existing functions of the Train to Gain service, and the additional flexibilities announced in June 2008, and outline further flexibilities that the £350 million of Train to Gain money will fund. Only private sector SMEs (i.e. with up to 250 employees) will be able to access these.

Re-iteration of the service and the flexibilities announced in June

- Funding for learners taking a level 2 qualification even if they already have a previous qualification at this level, and further funding for level 3 training. (These flexibilities were announced in June 2008.)
- Brokers will offer skills diagnostics and audits so companies can identify their training needs. Brokers can then also advise the SMEs as to which providers can offer the solutions to their training needs. (Train to Gain has always offered a skills brokerage service, which offers free, impartial, one-to-one, advice tailored to business's individual needs.)
- In addition to flexing up the service, a new communications campaign will begin in November.

Further flexibilities

- Funding bite-sized chunks of learning in subjects important to SMEs. Business improvement, team-working, customer service and risk-management are given as examples. Unit, or module funding, will probably be available from January 2009.
- Support for groups of SMEs located together so they can increase their purchasing power and share resources to support their training.
- Extending DIUS's leadership and management programme so more can benefit from it, including companies with 5-10 workers. (This is currently only available for SMEs with 10 to 250 employees. Train to Gain offers an in-depth skills analysis for owner/managers, plus grant support of up to £1000 to develop leadership and management skills.)

Edexcel Funding Policy Watches are intended to help colleagues keep up to date with national developments. Information is correct at the time of writing and is offered in good faith. No liability is accepted for decisions made on the basis of information given. The last word on funding lies with the LSC. Centres should be in contact with their LSC in relation to the planning and funding of their provision.