

# THE EP/AO CONFERENCE







# THE EP/AO CONFERENCE



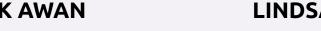
**SAK AWAN** 



**LINDSAY** 



Sak Awan & Lou Doyle











**Recruiting Staff Since 2013** 



Tech Platform **Since 2019** 



Conferences Est 2011 **Since 2023** 























#### **MEDIA SPONSOR**

#### EP/AO HUB

# THE APPRENTICESHIPS CONFERENCE



Welcome from the Chair

Lou Doyle - Co-Founder









# EP/AO CONFERENCE

# OUR EXHIBITORS





**APPRENTICESHIPS** 

**& SKILLS GROUP** 











































#### **MEDIA SPONSOR**



# OUR SPEAKERS



Lou Doyle Co-Founder SDN Mesma Group Conference Chair



Jake Tween Director of Apprenticeships DSW



Jonathan Mitchell Deputy Director for Delivery & Reform Skills England



Jessica Lewis-Bell Associate Director, Strategic Relationships Ofqual



Daniel Green
Policy Director
Federation of
Awarding Bodies



Fiona Aldridge Chief Executive Officer Skills Federation



Fabienne Bailey Chief Executive Officer Gateway Qualifications



Ian Jarvis Managing Director Skilltech Solutions



Tracey Sajno Co-owner & Director 1st Awards



Sam Moorwood Associate Director of Skills Sheffield Hallam University



Peter Pavitt
Programme & Quality
Manager
Specsavers



David Gallagher CEO NCFE





#### **MEDIA SPONSOR**



# OUR SPEAKERS



Tom Nutbrown Director of Operations Innovate Awarding



Lucy Hunte National Programme Manager NHS England



Tomiwa Jimoh Operations Manager City & Guilds



Elizabeth Pincombe-Stringer Associate Director of Operations FutureQuals



Jacqui Molkenthin Consultant **JEML** Consulting



Rachel Butt Director of Excellence Learning Curve Group



Joseph Lennox Senior Policy Advisor **HMRC** 



Paul Johnstone Senior Associate SDN Mesma Group



Chris Cherry Strategic Associate SDN Mesma Group



Claire Gill Senior Associate SDN Mesma Group



**Emily Hughes** Strategic Associate SDN Mesma Group



# OUR SPONSORS



Headline Sponsor



Workshop Sponsor



**Brochure Sponsor** 



**Catering Sponsor** 



Badge Sponsor



Event App Sponsor



Media Sponsor



**Drinks Sponsor** 





# POLICY CONTEXT - HOW IS APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENT CHANGING?



Jonathan Mitchell Deputy Director for Delivery & Reform Skills England



Daniel Green
Policy Director
Federation of Awarding Bodies
(FAB)



Fiona Aldridge CEO Skills Federation



Chris Cherry
Strategic Associate
SDN Mesma Group
Panel Chair









Session 1 - Question 1: How confident are you that your organisation can respond in a timely way to the apprenticeship assessment reform?

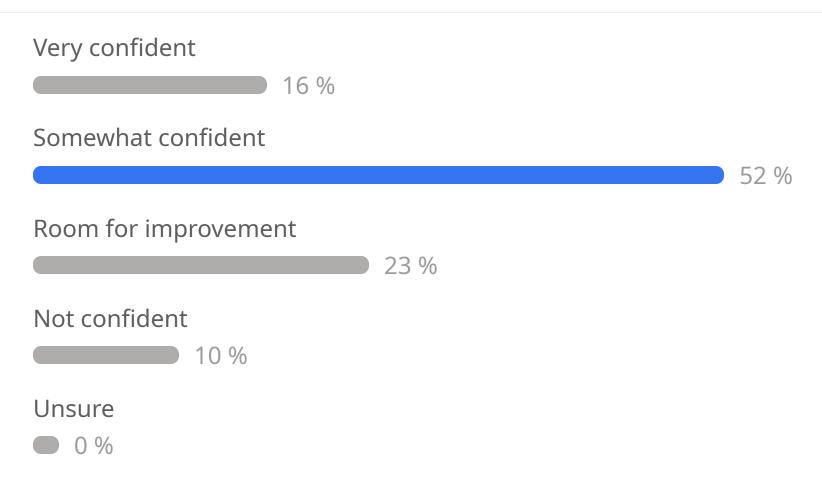






# Session 1 - Question 1: How confident are you that your organisation can respond in a timely way to the apprenticeship assessment reform?





John to change the design



Session 1 - Question 2: What do you feel is the biggest challenge coming from these reforms?







#### Session 1 - Question 2: What do you feel is the biggest challenge coming from these reforms?



Change of mindset

Standardisation and fairness

Confusion Lack of understanding Timescales of adoption

Consistency of approach

Lack of clarity

Unclear messages

Timescales Timescaled Quality Time CASS

CASS

Multitasking

Instability

Timing

**Timescalss** 

Comparability

Consistency rability Consistency Uncertainty Lack of detail

Unknown Resource Impact Inconsistency
ambiguity Inconsistency

The unknown

Knowledge

Lack of clarity and timeline

Uncertainty around more reforms Pace of change



# POLICY CONTEXT - HOW IS APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENT CHANGING?











# Apprenticeship Assessment Reform

**EPAO Conference** 

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

## **Apprenticeship assessment – principles**

Allow on-programme No unnecessary Proportionate assessment where duplication appropriate Shorter plans with minimal Employer-verified Allow centre-assessment behaviours where appropriate level prescription Minimum number of Assessment at the right Make best use of time, in the right place technology assessment methods

## What do the principles aim to achieve?

- An improved, streamlined experience for apprentices
- Permit innovation and flexibility by assessment organisations (while retaining employer influence and securing comparability of outcomes)
- Reduce the complexity, duplication and rigidity of the existing model, but protect validity and reliability
- Permit assessment to take place at the right time within the apprenticeship and more flexible approaches to marking, where appropriate
- Increase the role and influence of employers through employer-led verification of behaviours
- Encourage the use of digital technologies where appropriate

## Standard assessment plan content (further prescription when required)

Section	Description
Assessment details	Explains a number of core principles that apply to the apprenticeship's assessment, including the purpose of assessment outcomes and the expectation that all outcomes must be met. This section also sets out expectations relating to sampling, timing, and marking of assessments.
Assessment of behaviours	Clarifies that the employer is responsible for verifying that each behaviour statement has been sufficiently demonstrated.
Assessment outcomes	Summarises the content of the occupational standard into assessment outcomes and explains which knowledge and skills statements map to each outcome – including any knowledge and skill statements that <u>must</u> be assessed in every case.  Where there is a mandatory qualification alongside other apprenticeship assessment, these outcomes describe only the content that is <i>not</i> assessed by the qualification.
Assessment methods	Names at least one assessment method that <u>must</u> be used in every case. May also include a shortlist of other assessment methods from which assessment organisations can select in addition to the mandated method.
Assessment requirements	Notes specific requirements in relation to individual assessment outcomes or groups of outcomes. This may include describing specific priorities that inform the approach to assessment.
Performance descriptor Assessment organisations will use	Describes the characteristics of a 'pass' and any grades above a pass. the assessment plan content (above) alongside Skills England's General Requirements and any

Assessment organisations will use the assessment plan content (above) alongside Skills England's General Requirements and any relevant requirements from regulators or EQA providers to develop apprenticeship assessment specifications and strategies.

## Converting principles into assessment design and delivery

# Where a mandatory qualification or required regulatory assessment sufficiently covers the assessment outcomes

 Generic, brief assessment plan will describe that the apprenticeship will be assessed by completion of the mandatory qualification or regulatory assessment

# Standard low-prescription apprenticeship assessment

- Minimal level of prescription required to meet DfE assessment principles alongside generic 'rules' (e.g. Ofqual, SE 'general requirements')
- AOs develop specifications and assessments that follow the approach laid out
- We expect the majority of assessment plans to follow this model

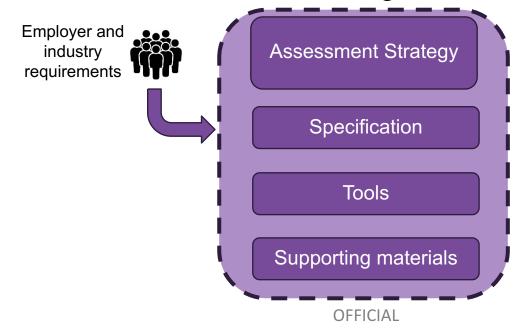
# Exceptional additional prescription apprenticeship assessment

- Where medium or high risk occupations are identified, additional prescription may be added (e.g. for safety, regulatory compliance, etc.)
- AOs develop specifications and assessments that follow the approach laid out

## Converting principles into assessment design and delivery



#### Assessment organisations



# Supporting apprenticeship assessment reform

Some questions for discussion

## Supporting the apprenticeship assessment reforms

#### **Employers**

- How can employers and their industries collaborate to inform AOs' development of assessments that meet their needs and have the necessary currency?
- What will best-practice look like in the validation of behaviours by employers, and how can this be promoted/supported for all?
- What support and guidance is needed to assist employers in the selection of valid and proportionate assessment methods and mandatory knowledge and skills statements?

# **Assessment** organisations

- Where are there opportunities for AOs to exercise innovation and expertise in the design of apprenticeship assessments?
- How will AOs meet the ambition to 'make the best use of technology' in apprenticeship assessments?
- How can AOs to work together to secure consistent employer confidence and intelligence that can ensure assessments have currency with employers?

# Training providers

- What can training providers do now to prepare to exercise their role in centre-led assessment?
- What information do training providers need assessment organisations to supply, including what was previously available in EPA plans?
- What else can training providers do to support apprentices in the achievement of new apprenticeship assessments?

# Annexe

Some more information about the 'general requirements'

## Structure of the general requirements

The requirements are split into two sections.

#### Section 1: General apprenticeship assessment requirements and guidance

This section sets out, in greater detail, the key aspects of a new apprenticeship assessment plan and applies to all apprenticeship assessments.

#### Section 2: Additional apprenticeship assessment requirements and guidance

This section sets out additional requirements for apprenticeship assessment, where the assessment organisation is not regulated by Ofqual. This is to ensure that the guardrails and consistent clarity of expectation secured through Ofqual's regulation will apply universally, as appropriate. As such, this section does not apply where the apprenticeship assessment is regulated by Ofqual.

**Please note**: this summary reflects the positions that Ofqual is currently consulting on and will be revisited to reflect the outcomes of that consultation in due course. Work is currently being undertaken with OfS to understand the interaction of these requirements with their regulatory framework.

## **Section 1: Overview**

Content and structure of the Apprenticeship Assessment plan	Describes the overall structure and content of reformed assessment plans
Assessment Outcomes	Purpose of assessment outcomes and how they should be used
Grading	The available grades for an apprenticeship are pass and distinction. Requires secure performance across all assessment outcomes (any insufficient demonstration results in the pass requirements not being met).
Requirement to pass all assessments	Where there are two or more methods, an apprentice must achieve at least a Pass in each
Performance descriptors	Purpose of performance descriptors and how they should be used
Minimum assessment requirements	Each plan will specify the minimum assessment requirements for a given occupational standard (any required methods, the minimum number of methods etc.)
Assessment materials and resources	Where possible, apprentices must be permitted to use their normal tools, systems, processes and documentation
Verification of behaviours	Sets out roles and responsibilities re: behaviour verification
Gateway to completion	The organisation requesting the certificate must confirm that the apprentice has achieved the requirements in the AAP (e.g. achievement of any MQs, behaviours sufficiently demonstrated, any English and maths quals)

# Section 2 – additional apprenticeship assessment requirements

#### Purposes

 Sets out the purposes that must be met in apprenticeship assessment design

#### Assessment strategies

- Refers assessment to respective EQA providers
- Outlines some likely inclusions

#### **Employer engagement**

Requires employer engagement in assessment designs

#### Synoptic assessment

- Requires significant proportion of synoptic assessment
- Defines what is meant by 'synoptic assessment'

## Balance between assessment outcomes

 Requires appropriate balance between assessment outcomes in assessment design

# Coverage and predictability

Permits sampling, within defined parameters

#### Setting the assessments

 Requires assessment organisations to set the assessments

#### Assessment adaptations

 Permits adaptations to the context of assessments (but not the level of demand, nature of the K&S being assessed, or assessment conditions)

#### Marking the assessments

- Permits centre/training provider assessment, with appropriate oversight
- Sets expectations re: independent assessment

# Guidance for training providers

 Requires assessment organisations to provide effective guidance to training providers

#### Monitoring and scrutiny

 Requires assessment organisations to have effective measures in place to ensure quality of assessments delivered by training providers

#### Standard setting

 Requires appropriate boundaries between the pass and the distinction, and that this boundary must be set and maintained across assessment versions

#### Specifications

 Requires assessment organisations to have a specification and outlines its content

#### Resits and retakes

Requires assessment organisations to create resit and retake policies that do not limit an apprentice's ability to achieve a distinction.

#### Additional guidance

 On assessment methods, the use of evidence generated onprogramme, and other assessment considerations







"There are opportunities for awarding organisations in the changes, but they will need time to prepare."

#### **Daniel Green**

Policy Director Federation of Awarding Bodies (FAB)





# POLICY CONTEXT - HOW IS APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENT CHANGING?



**Fiona Aldridge**CEO
Skills Federation







#### **MEDIA SPONSOR**

#### EP/AO HUB

# PANEL SESSION



Jonathan Mitchell Deputy Director for Delivery & Reform Skills England



Daniel Green
Policy Director
Federation of Awarding Bodies
(FAB)



Fiona Aldridge CEO Skills Federation



Chris Cherry Strategic Associate SDN Mesma Group Panel Chair







#### **MEDIA SPONSOR**

#### EP/AO HUB

# WORKSHOP



Fixing The Flaws – How the reforms tackle the problems we face

Jake Tween

Director of Apprenticeships

DSW







FIXING
THE FLAVS

How the reforms tackle the problems we face now



# ABOUT DSW



JAKE TWEEN

Director of Apprenticeships

26 YEARS' EXPERIENCE



PROVIDERS



10,000+ EMPLOYERS



17,000+ CERTIFIED



85 NPS



# REFORMS AT A GLANCE

- Shorter assessment plans (3-4 pages)
- AOs to decide assessment methods and parameters
- AOs to decide timing of assessments
- Removal of gateway and EPA
- Centre-led assessments are permitted
- Removal of duplication
- Employer-verified behaviours





# CURRENT FLAWS

(and how the reforms intend to fix them)



#### **DELAYS**

- Assessor availability
- Apprentice / panel member availability
- Long EPA windows (e.g. projects)
- Incorrect Gateway documentation

#### **COSTS**

Cancelled assessments

# CURRENT FLAWS

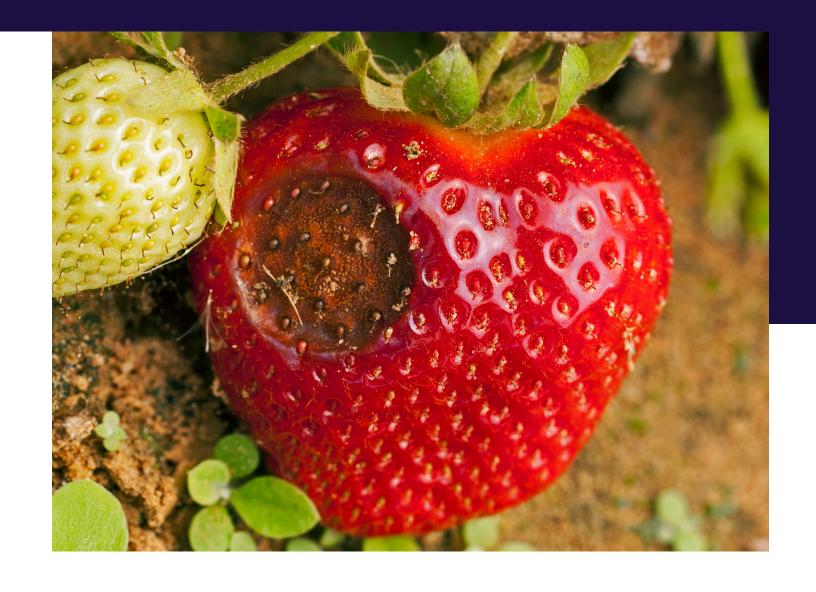
(and how the reforms intend to fix them)

#### LOW COMPLETION RATES

- Lack of motivation
- Achieved MQ

#### ASSESSMENT BURDEN

- Duplication of MQ
- 100% coverage of all KSBs
- High stakes, end-loaded assessment





## CURRENT FLAWS

#### (and how the reforms intend to fix them)



- Complexity of assessment plans
- Inflexibility of assessment methods and timing
- Limited opportunity for formative feedback
- Misalignment between provider and EPAO expectations
- Failed EPA limited retraining opportunities
- Poor integration of training and assessment
- Limited innovation in assessment approaches













01302 760 008

epa@dswlearning.co.uk

www.dswlearning.co.uk

DSW House
Unit 3 Hayfield Business Park
Field Lane
Auckley
Doncaster
South Yorkshire
DN9 3FL



#### ©DSW 2025

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher, DSW. This brochure may not be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of by trade in any binding or cover than that in which it is published, without prior consent from DSW. The law of copyright and its related rights in the UK applies and can be found in the copyrights sections in the Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act 1998 (as amended).

Company Registered in England No 03803848



## THE EP/AO CONFERENCE



**COFFEE & NETWORKING** 11.00 - 11.30







#### **MEDIA SPONSOR**



## WHAT DO THE REFORMS TO APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENT MEAN FOR EPAOS/AOS & THEIR FUTURE ROLE?



David Gallagher CEO NCFE



Fabienne Bailey Chief Executive Officer Gateway Qualifications



Tracey Sajno Co-owner & Director 1st Awards



Jacqui Molkenthin Consultant JEML Consulting



Emily Hughes Strategic Associate SDN Mesma Group Panel Chair







## WHAT DO THE REFORMS TO APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENT MEAN FOR EPAOS/AOS & THEIR FUTURE ROLE?



Chaos and Opportunity
David Gallagher
CEO
NCFE







#### **MEDIA SPONSOR**



## WHAT DO THE REFORMS TO APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENT MEAN FOR EPAOS/AOS & THEIR FUTURE ROLE?



Words of Wisdom - Apprenticeship Assessment Reforms
Fabienne Bailey
Chief Executive Officer
Gateway Qualifications





Fabienne Bailey

Gateway Qualifications – Words of Wisdom





www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk

enquiries@gatewayqualifications.org.uk



## Is this the end for End Point Assessment?







## WOW

## Words of Wisdom



## Transitioning...







### What did we learn?

Manage the project as a change

Self-evaluate against the framework

Consider consultancy

Look at your processes that already align



### More WOWs

- Establish a cross-functional project/working group
- Stakeholder engagement (including support) and communication is key internally and externally.



• Start with policies and principles and then look at processes, systems, resources.



### More WOWs

- Consider the commercial model
- Consider the customer relationship and how this is secured and managed
- •What does the change to minimum duration mean for assessment modelling and charging?





### Assessment

Think ahead

What do you want in a CASS strategy?

How will you build this?



Look for sector training such as FAB webinars – GQ sponsoring the new training offer

What does your centre agreement need to look like with providers?





## Support is out here!





## Key Takeaways for Centres

Speak with your Awarding Assessment Organisations (EPAO's),

Staffing requirements

Costs

Cashflow

Payments – when, what etc

**Systems** 

Quality Assurance



### We can do this!





### Contact us

Fabienne Bailey

Connect with me:





- https://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/
- enquiries@gatewayqualifications.org.uk
- 01206 911 211 or 07827327157
- GatewayQuals
- Gateway Qualifications





## WHAT DO THE REFORMS TO APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENT MEAN FOR EPAOS/AOS & THEIR FUTURE ROLE?



**Tracey Sajno**Co-owner & Director
1st Awards





# "Helping shape the future workforce by providing First-Class Assessments, conducted by industry experts with experience, innovation, and passion"

Tracey Sajno







#### **MEDIA SPONSOR**

#### EP/AO HUB

## PANEL SESSION



David Gallagher CEO NCFE



Fabienne Bailey Chief Executive Officer Gateway Qualifications



Tracey Sajno Co-owner & Director 1st Awards



Jacqui Molkenthin Consultant JEML Consulting



Emily Hughes Strategic Associate SDN Mesma Group Panel Chair







#### **MEDIA SPONSOR**

#### EP/AO HUB

## WORKSHOP



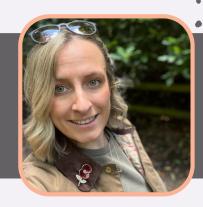
Ian Jarvis Managing Director Skilltech Solutions



Tom Nutbrown
Director of Operations
Innovate Awarding



Tomiwa Jimoh Operations Manager City & Guilds



Elizabeth Pincombe-Stringer Associate Director of Operations FutureQuals













Reform Ready: Technology, Trust, and the Learner Experience in Tomorrow's Apprenticeships

Presented by Ian Jarvis, Managing Director of Skilltech Solutions





## Welcome to our

Panel Tomiwa Jimoh City & Guilds

Tom Nutbrown Innovate Awarding



Elizabeth Pincombe-Stringer **FutureQuals** 









# Thank you







## THE EP/AO CONFERENCE



**LUNCH & NETWORKING** 13.00 - 14.00







#### **MEDIA SPONSOR**



# WHAT ROLE WILL PROVIDERS / EMPLOYERS / AOS PLAY IN APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENT & HOW DO WE PREPARE?



Joseph Lennox Senior Policy Advisor HMRC



Peter Pavitt
Programme & Quality Manager
Specsavers



Rachel Butt
Director of Excellence
Learning Curve Group



Sam Moorwood Associate Director of Skills Sheffield Hallam University



Lucy Hunte National Programme Manager NHS England Panel Chair







# WHAT ROLE WILL PROVIDERS / EMPLOYERS / AOS PLAY IN APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENT & HOW DO WE PREPARE?



Why the System Must Work for Apprentices
Joseph Lennox
Senior Policy Advisor
HMRC





### Why the System Must Work for Apprentices

JOSEPH LENNOX CHA (PARS)

SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR – HMRC

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – ASSOCIATION OF APPRENTICES

FORMER LEVEL 4 POLICY APPRENTICE

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



## According to the AoA Survey, what do apprentices value most?





## According to the AoA Survey, what do apprentices value most?



Career progression

16 %

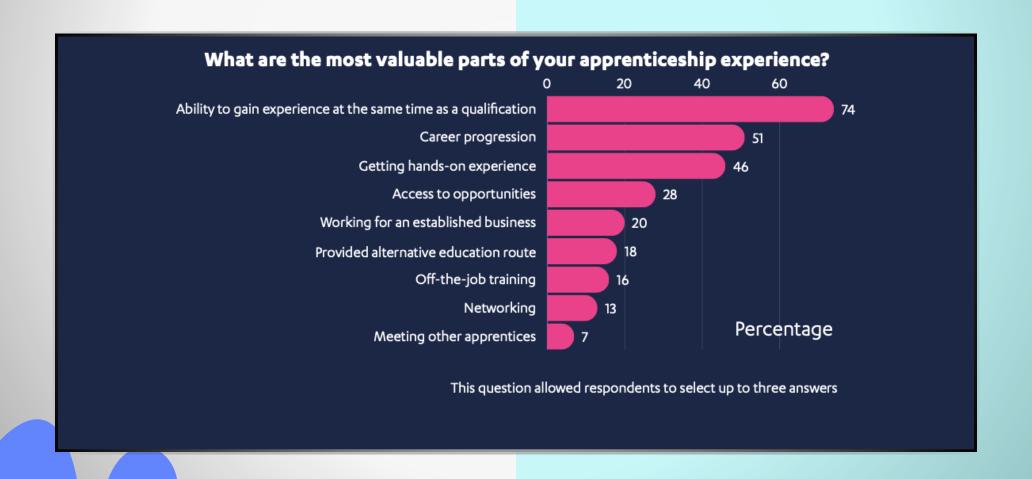
Ability to gain experience and a qualification ♥

77 %

Getting into the industry they wanted

7 %

## What Do Apprentices Value Most?



## My Journey So Far

Joined in 2019 as a Policy Advisor (EO) in VAT Policy at the age of 19. In this role I was learning the ropes and how to be an effective Policy Advisor. Managed HMRCs move to sharepoint as my first project.

2019

Secured my second promotion to Senior Strategy Advisor (SO) in 2022 at the age of 22. In this role I help shape the strategic landscape across HMRC working with ExCom by managing Strategy Committee.

2022

Took on a permanent position in policy now managing a team of 7 and leading on government flagship policy. Team includes 5 apprentices.

2025

#### 2021

Secured promotion to Higher Executive Policy Advisor (HO) in 2021 while still on the scheme at the age of 20. In this role I specialised in Education and The Temporary Reduced Rate VAT policy. Challenging large business in court, drafting new policy and working with HMT to deliver polices requested by the Chancellor.

#### 2024

- Took on a secondment role working in the CEO and Deputy CEO's office leading on parliamentary business.
- Moved back into VAT Policy working on VAT for Private Schools.

## Where Has It All Taken Me?

Meeting Ministers, senior politicians and royalty Supporting the Young Black Man project & young Asian Woman project.

Winning Apprentice Ambassador of The Year HMRC

Invited to numerous events to share my story. NCFE, Innovate, AoA, AAC and many more!

Appointed a Non-Executive Director of AoA I am Chair of a local schools governing body.

Judging Apprenticeship Awards Winning Apprentice of
The Year for my
category and winning
overall Apprentice of
The Tear.

Being apart of the first cohort to receive postnominals

### **Three Pillars**

#### **Apprentice**



## Learning provider

A strong learning provider who provides support along the way and act as a mentor to help the apprentice in learning.



#### **Employer**

A dedicated employer who will commit the time to develop the apprentice and support them while on programme.



#### **EPAO**

A strong independent organization which to assess you and conduct your exams..



What percentage of apprentices said their apprenticeship made them feel stressed or anxious?





## What percentage of apprentices said their apprenticeship made them feel stressed or anxious?





### **Apprenticeship Impact**





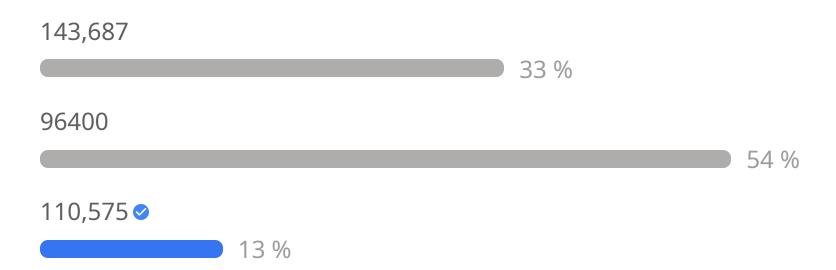
# From Ofqual's data for 22/23, How many End Point Assessments were completed?





### From Ofqual's data for 22/23, How many End Point Assessments were completed?





## KEEPING FOCUS

Ensure changes delivered doesn't impact the quality outcome.

We want to create the best retain the best of the best.

Assessments should be a

Assessments should be a

and assess

way to monitor and assess

an apprentice's skills it

an apprentice's burdensome.

shouldn't be burdensome.

**APPRENTICE** 

Poeryone on the sold of the so

We take the on apprentice of the must make the the changes the changes the change and iourney to the change of the



#### **MEDIA SPONSOR**



## PANEL SESSION



Joseph Lennox Senior Policy Advisor HMRC



Peter Pavitt
Programme & Quality Manager
Specsavers



Rachel Butt
Director of Excellence
Learning Curve Group



Sam Moorwood Associate Director of Skills Sheffield Hallam University



Lucy Hunte National Programme Manager NHS England Panel Chair







# REGULATION - HOW WILL THIS ASSURE THE QUALITY OF APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENTS?



Claire Gill Senior Associate SDN Mesma Group Panel Chair



Jessica Lewis-Bell Associate Director, Strategic Relationships Ofqual



Jonathan Mitchell Deputy Director for Delivery & Reform Skills England







# REGULATION - HOW WILL THIS ASSURE THE QUALITY OF APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENTS?

Regulation - assuring the quality of apprenticeship assessment

Claire Gill

Senior Associate
SDN Mesma Group

Japan Tracama di







# REGULATION - HOW WILL THIS ASSURE THE QUALITY OF APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENTS?

Regulatory framework for apprenticeship assessment
Jessica Lewis-Bell
Associate Director, Strategic Relationships
Ofqual









Regulatory framework for apprenticeship assessment

Apprenticeships and Skills Group Conference

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025



### Aims of today

#### To give you a better understanding of:

- Ofqual's role in the apprenticeship system
- Ofqual's approach to regulation

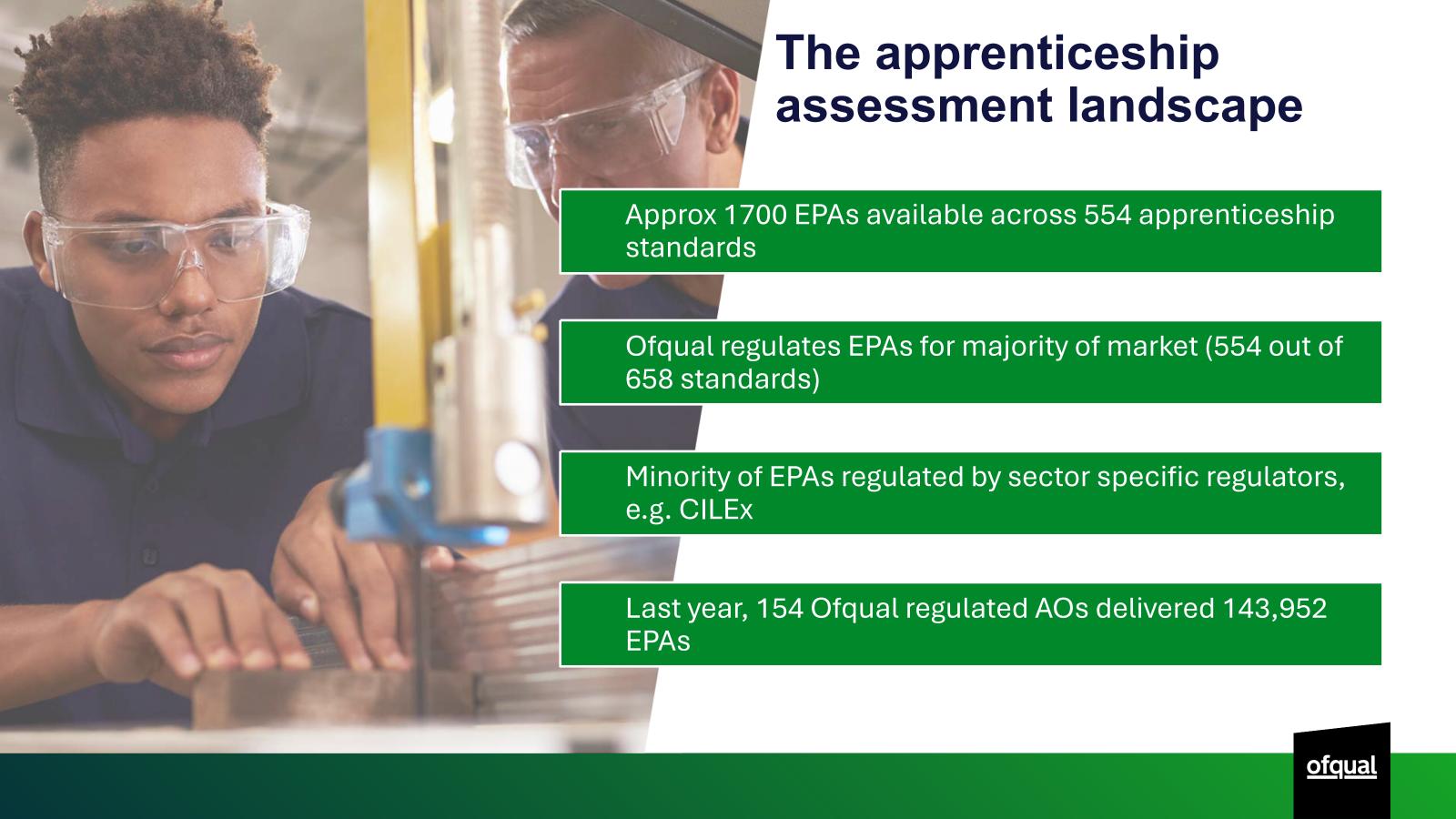
 Our consultation - what we have heard across the sector

 How the proposed regulatory approach ensures quality and comparability



### Roles in the apprenticeship system





#### Strategic approach to regulation

Entity-led
Outcome driven
Risk-based

Tailored to risks we see in the apprenticeship market

Regulatory craft, using full toolkit at our disposal



#### Reforming Apprenticeship End Point Assessment

#### **End-Point Assessment**

- Assessment happens at the end
- Assessment plan prescribes approach
- EPAs included in scope of AOs' recognition

#### Assessment principles

- Proportionate, flexible assessment at the right time
- AOs will have more autonomy, in line with other qualifications
- Avoid duplication in mandated qualifications
- Recognition by SSA



# Ofqual's proposed new regulatory approach

- Embeds DfE's assessment principles
- Greater system efficiency by regulating apprenticeship assessment in line with other regulated qualifications
- AOs have clearer accountability for apprenticeship assessment
- Supports continuous improvement, innovation and manageability
- Supports a more appropriate use of employer input

### Consultation on the new regulatory framework

Assessment Setting structure and Purposes Content assessments synoptic assessment Marking Assessment Standard setting Grading assessments design Disapplication of Assessment Employer **Transition** certain General strategy engagement arrangements requirements Conditions

### Ofqual rules v. statutory guidance

#### Ofqual rules (Conditions and associated requirements)

 All regulated AOs have a legal obligation to comply with Ofqual's rules on an ongoing basis

#### Ofqual statutory guidance

- Ofqual's guidance explains how to comply with our rules
- All regulated AOs must have regard to any guidance when deciding how to comply with our rules



## Key themes during sector engagement

Comparability and consistency

40% AO marking/synoptic assessment

Assessment strategies

Terminology

#### **Consistency and comparability**

DfE's assessment principles give greater priority to flexibility, choice and innovation than to consistency of assessment experience

Comparability of **outcomes** for a given occupational standard remains important so that apprentices are assessed fairly and employers can have confidence in results

#### Comparability of **outcomes** will be supported by:

Apprenticeship assessment plan requirements

Ofqual's regulatory proposals related to assessment design

Ofqual's regulatory proposals related to holding AOs to account

Ofqual's ongoing risk-based regulation

### **Timeline**

Policy
consultation –
June to August
2025



Technical consultation – Winter 2025



Publish final regulatory framework – Spring 2026

## Any questions?





## PANEL SESSION



Claire Gill Senior Associate SDN Mesma Group Panel Chair



Jessica Lewis-Bell Associate Director, Strategic Relationships Ofqual



Jonathan Mitchell Deputy Director for Delivery & Reform Skills England











#### **MEDIA SPONSOR**

#### EP/AO HUB

## CLOSE & KEY THEMES



**Paul Johnstone**Senior Associate
SDN Mesma Group







How confident are you that you understand the changes and have the information and support needed to help them deliver real improvements in quality, experience, and outcomes from the outset?







# How confident are you that you understand the changes & have the information & support needed to help them deliver real improvements in quality, experience, outcomes



Very confident 12 % Fairly confident 52 % Somewhat confident 31 % Lacking confidence 5 % Not confident 0 %





# THE EP/AO CONFERENCE



**CONFERENCE CLOSE** 







### NEXT CONFERENCE APPRENTICESHIPS CONFERENCE FEB 2026



**CONFERENCE CHAIR**DAN HOWARD



risr/ HEADLINE SPONSOR



SUPER EARLY BIRD TICKETS

