



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Lord Prior of Brampton
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial
Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Lord Foster of Bath
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@beis.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk

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Dear Lord Foster

During the debate on productivity on the 8th February, you raised a question on the apprenticeship levy and the online service, to which I promised I would write to give you an update.

I can confirm that on 23 January we opened a new part of the apprenticeship service, allowing levy-paying employers to register online to manage their apprenticeship funding. This followed the earlier introduction of other parts of the service which allowed employers to estimate their apprenticeship funding and fund apprenticeship training. This new part of the service was opened to a select group of employers as part of a planned phased roll out approach.

On 13 February, following successful registration during the first phase, we opened up registration to all levy paying employers. There will be no funds in employer accounts but this provides employers with an opportunity to use the service and structure their accounts in readiness for the launch of the apprenticeship levy on 6 April.

The Skills Funding Agency have contacted levy paying employers to communicate this approach and are providing support via a dedicated helpline.

The online service will allow employers to actively manage their apprenticeship programmes, help them to estimate their financial spend, and recruit apprentices through their training providers. It will also help employers focus on their business priorities, address skills shortages head on, and invest in the skills and training to help their organisations succeed.

I hope you find this response useful; I will also be placing a copy of this letter in the house library.

DAVID PRIOR