

Tracy Brabin MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

13 April 2018

Dear Ms Brabin,

**Re: Parliamentary Question 134915 on plans to announce the funding rate for the early years level 3 standard**

The Department for Education (DfE) has asked me to respond to you directly regarding your Parliamentary Question 134915, in which you enquire about plans to announce the funding rate for the ST0135 level 3 early years educator standard.

The Institute is responsible for approving standards and assessment plans, and makes recommendations to the DfE on the appropriate funding band for apprenticeships. There are two stages to our funding band recommendation process, which I set out below.

Firstly, once a standard has been approved we make an indicative funding band recommendation. In this case, the early years educator the standard has been approved and the indicative funding band has been accepted by the trailblazer group. Secondly, once the trailblazer group has submitted their end-point assessment (EPA) plan and it has been approved, we make a final funding band recommendation. The EPA for the early years educator standard has not yet been submitted, so it is not possible to give a date for the announcement of the funding band.

The EPA is a vital part of ensuring quality and consistency and it must be sufficiently robust to confirm that an apprentice is fully competent in the occupation. The early years educator trailblazer group is committed the prompt development of the EPA. To help the trailblazer group, our Relationship Manager for this standard is working closely with the early years educator trailblazer group and will confirm with them when the EPA is ready for submission.

The Institute will share the final funding band recommendation with the trailblazer group once the EPA plan is approved. They will then have ten working days to accept or appeal their final funding band recommendation. If accepted, the funding band recommendation is passed to the Secretary of State for Education who will

make the final decision. The Institute will notify the trailblazer group once the final decision is taken.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gerry Berragan', is positioned below the closing text.

Sir Gerry Berragan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Institute for Apprenticeships