

FederationOracle

The one source for all your Apprenticeship Certification information

Making sense of the politics...

Many of you are likely to be preparing for a relaxing break over the coming weeks but the Apprenticeship evolution is continuing with a new minister appointed, the third batch of Apprenticeship Frameworks announced for withdrawal (consultation out now) and rejections continuing to be an issue for the network, more information can be found in this issue of the Federation Oracle.

Upgrades to Certification System Architecture

Over the last week there have been some amendments made to ACE with the aim of improving your experience, these include:

- Notifications – Can be viewed 100 per page with the addition of a ‘select all’ feature to help you manage them.
- Advanced Search by Level – Addition of new search field, allowing you to search by Apprenticeship level.
- Framework validations – During the framework selection process if a framework is chosen that is not suitable for the apprentice’s Start Date, an error message will appear advising that the framework selection is incorrect and will need amended before the claim can be processed.
- UKPRN – Centres can record their UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN) under the Organisation Details tab.
- Unique Log-in Sessions – Your ACE login can only be used once per session, preventing the same login being used simultaneously. Please remember, to log out when you have finished using ACE.

Further information on these system amendments please visit our [news page](#).

Rejections on the increase!

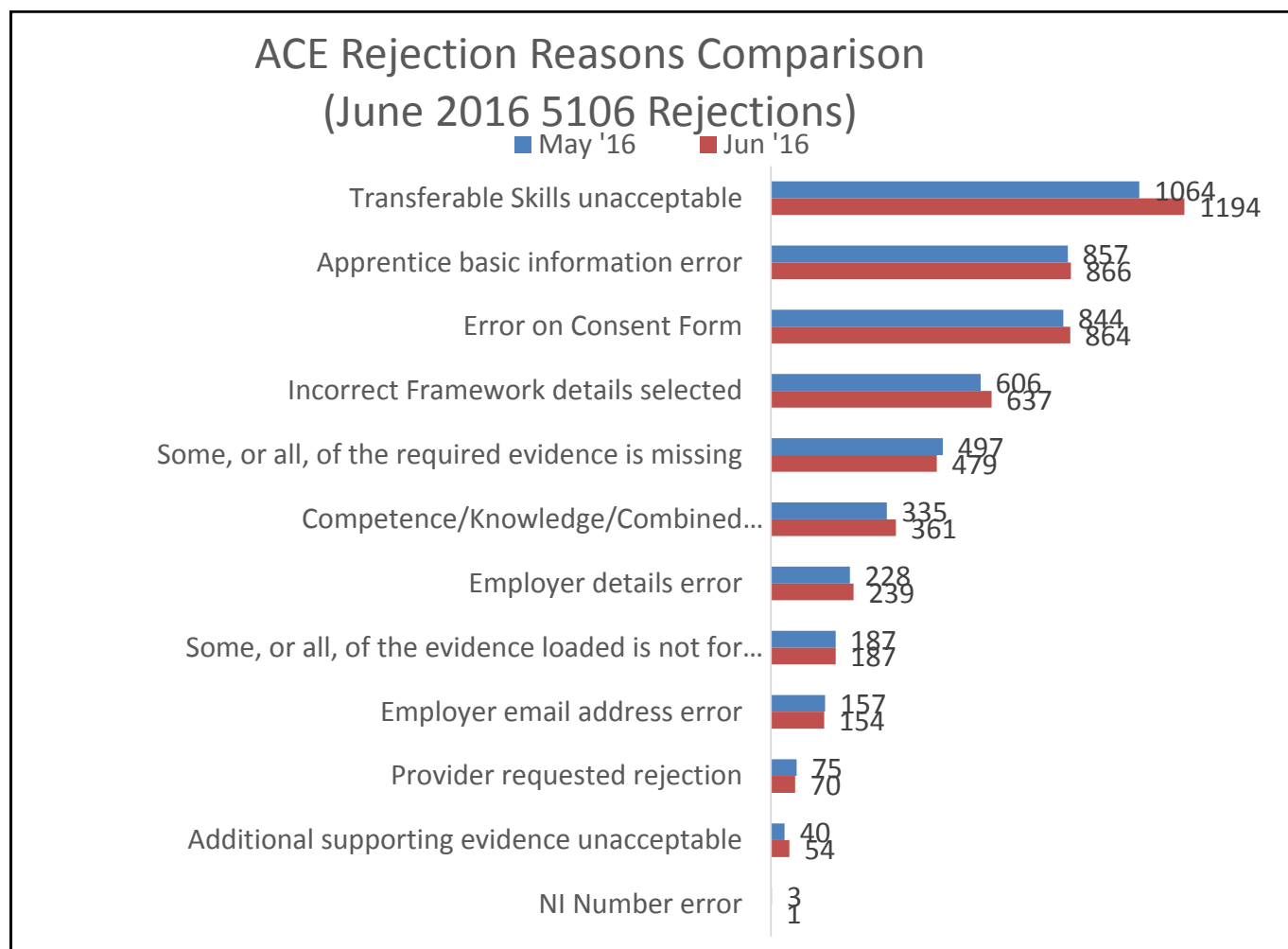
Rejections continue to fluctuate with the number of rejections rising again from May to June 16. In June there were 5106 rejections and using a conservative estimate of how much this costs the network to correct and resubmit, we estimate in June alone rejections cost at least £20,000. Looking back at the first 6 months of this year, the cost is estimated to be at least £118,000. In the last edition of the Oracle we highlighted how many rejections were due to errors on the consent form and provided an annotated example. This is now also available on the [ACE website](#).

The bar chart here is one of the ways we look at the rejections made in a given time frame, with this example showing a comparison from May to June. The chart identifies how many rejections have been made per rejection category, as some rejections can be due to multiple reasons there are more reason rejections than overall rejections.

News in Brief

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Transferable Skills unacceptable, Apprentice basic information error and Error on Consent for are consistently the top three rejection reasons which are causes for concern. When looking further at these three reasons it appears that many of them are due to minor errors, which could easily be eradicated



The common errors include:

Transferable Skills unacceptable

- Key information missing when evidence is scanned/ photocopied

Apprentice basic information

- Often misspelt names
- Mismatching Dates of Birth

Error on Consent Form

- Last date in Learning missing
- Last date in Learning not matching ACE
- Apprentice signing before the Last Date in Learning.

A further option to help you identify where errors are being made within your organisations lies within the reports available to you from ACE itself. All users can access the reports dashboard once logged into ACE. The variety of reports are explained in more detail in our new ACE support videos. There is one report that would be of great value to many of you; within the CSV download section choose the Rejected Apprentices (number 4) in the lower drop down field. This will update the field options within the CSV download area allowing you to download reports showing rejections filtered by month, user, body or framework. These reports will show you submissions made, rejections and the percentage of rejections. We hope that these along with the other reports will provide you with vital information to help you reduce your rejections and in turn save your organisation money. If you require any assistance with the reports please contact our Support Team.

ACE Videos – How To Make A Successful Claim

At the end of July we launched seven new short videos aimed at highlighting where common rejections occur and how to avoid these and make perfect claims. The videos are available to view on the ACE website and cover topics such as:

- Selecting Framework Details And Uploading Acceptable Achievement Evidence
- Completing An Error Free Consent Form
- Reporting

The videos have been designed to benefit both new and existing ACE Users and if you haven't already watched them you can do so by visiting [ACE](#).

SASE Frameworks to Standards Transition – An Update

Background

As you are aware, as part of the current Apprenticeship reforms in England, no new Apprenticeship Frameworks have been developed or issued since 31 August 2014 and they are being replaced by new [Apprenticeship Standards](#). These are being developed by groups of employers.

The SFA expects to move from Frameworks to Standards over the course of this parliament with most Frameworks being phased out and replacement Standards in place by the start of the funding year 2017/18. The withdrawal of Apprenticeship Frameworks is a phased approach, with notice being given to both Issuing Authorities and Training Providers.

Batch 1 & 2 Withdrawals

In March of this year, BIS announced [the first batch of Apprenticeship Frameworks to be withdrawn](#). These 7 Frameworks have now been withdrawn and were closed to new starts from **1 June 2016**.

Following a period of consultation, at the end of May, BIS [published](#) the second batch of 56 Apprenticeship Frameworks that will be withdrawn for new starts from **1 December 2016**. These Frameworks have had a low number of reported starts in the 2014/2015 and the 2015/2016 funding years or have alternative provision covered by Apprenticeship Standards. The last date for starts on these Frameworks will be **30 November 2016**.

NB: Any Apprentices currently on any of the Frameworks confirmed as being withdrawn can continue through to completion and will be awarded their Apprenticeship Completion Certificate in the normal manner.

Batch 3 Consultation Now Open

BIS are now consulting on the third batch of 55 frameworks intended for withdrawal for new starts from 1 April 2017. The Frameworks included in this Batch 3 consultation can be viewed [online](#). The [consultation](#) is open from **Wednesday 6 July until Wednesday 3 August**.

The frameworks included in this consultation have:

- had fewer than 125 starts in 2014/15 funding year and, so far, in the 2015/16 funding year or;
- suitable coverage by replacement Apprenticeship Standard(s)

BIS will review the consultation feedback and, in September 2016, will announce the final Batch 3 list of Frameworks for withdrawal. This will give 6 months' notice before the stated date of withdrawal on **31 March 2017**.

Please note that: the last date for new starts on all withdrawn Frameworks will be updated on [Apprenticeship Certificate England \(ACE\)](#) and on the learning aims search on [the Hub](#). On the agreed withdrawal date, the Frameworks will also be archived on [Apprenticeship Frameworks Online](#).

Sector Skills Council, Improve Ltd, merges with National Skills Academy for Food & Drink

It's a challenging time for the food and drink industry but by working together we can further improve the skills within your own organisation and across the whole Food & Drink manufacturing sector. By bringing together world-class manufacturers with the best training providers available, and inspiring the next generation, we can help equip tomorrow's workforce with the practical skills and knowhow needed to face the uncertainty that lies ahead of us.



In the interests of promoting joined up thinking and collaboration right across the industry, we've simplified our own offering – bringing the roles of 'Improve' as the Skills Council for Food and Drink Manufacturing under the National Skills Academy for Food & Drink umbrella. We now operate as a single entity, with a shared mission.

We continue to act as a single source of industry-endorsed training and we are continue to raise our game to help your raise yours - not only in the service and support we offer to individual businesses but in championing collaborative action on the big industry skills issues.

Policy Update

Well since the last Federation Oracle Newsletter the British public have voted to leave the EU, we have a new Prime Minister supported by a new cabinet and the skills, apprenticeships, Further Education and Higher Education briefs have gone back into the Department for Education. The Secretary of State for Education is now Justine Greening and supporting her is a new Minister of State for Skills – Rob Halfon. He will be responsible for the Apprenticeship reforms, the levy and implementation of the Post 16 Skills Plan published by his predecessor Nick Boles. The [Post-16 skills plan](#) is here to read in full.

The key things contained in the report are in response to an independent review on 16-19 technical education led by Lord Sainsbury which looks to focus delivery around 15 proposed technical routes that will allow for delivery either via the college or independent training provider route or work based (apprenticeship route) but with a common set of standards for both routes and the possibility of a single or consortia of awarding organisations per route to be given a franchise for a set period of time. They anticipate delivery on some of these new routes by September 2019. The [Independent Review](#) had some 34 recommendations and has the potential to radically change the post 16 landscape. The outline timescales are as set out below:

