



Luke Hall MP

Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education

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18 April 2024

Dear providers,

RE Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) Spring 2024 update

Further to my predecessor's letter of 24 November 2023 on the LLE, I'm writing to share with you an update on recent developments on the journey to implementation of this transformational policy.

I wanted to set out new information on the delivery of the LLE. Having worked closely with the Student Loans Company (SLC) on the delivery of its new LLE application and payments system, the government understands the great challenge of changing finance systems whilst at all costs ensuring a seamless transition for learners and providers.

Therefore, the government has decided to phase the delivery of the LLE during AY 2025/26. This will mean that the first LLE learners will apply for their funding in September 2025 (instead of February 2025) and commence study of their courses and modules from January 2026 (instead of September 2025).

This phasing decision has been taken in order to prioritise:

- **Protection of the existing student finance system** – while the LLE brings transformational changes to student finance system, it is a significant undertaking for SLC's systems and our priority is ensuring the existing system, learners and their loans are not impacted by these changes as we seek to maximise success with the roll out of the LLE.
- **SLC systems testing** – given the scale of the LLE programme, which will become the whole student finance system once launched, this phased approach allows the SLC to test their systems with smaller volumes of applications in January 2026, so that we can more safely introduce the new system and ensure its reliability ahead of full academic year volumes in September 2026, and full modular roll out in September 2027.
- **Providers' preparation time** – the government acknowledges the scale of change the LLE requires for providers and the extensive adaptations which need to be made to their systems and operating models. Our new timelines here provide a longer window for providers to implement necessary changes and processes in anticipation of the LLE's launch.

I look forward to progressing delivery of the LLE with you all, and creating a higher education system which enables and promotes a more flexible approach to lifelong learning.

As we progress implementation, you can find further information, including details of this update on the [LLE GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/life-long-learning-entitlement) page. Further updates will be made to this page regarding additional entitlement for priority subjects and courses, further details on maintenance, and the launch of a technical consultation on the wider expansion of modular funding over the coming months. A provider preparation guide will also be circulated in the coming weeks, providing further information from DfE and SLC to support providers in preparing for the LLE.

Thank you for your continued engagement with my officials on the LLE and I look forward to working with you as we continue on the path to delivery of lifelong learning.

Yours sincerely,

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Luke Hall MP
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