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Department for the
Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

 **European Union**
European
Social Fund
Northern Ireland

Apprenticeship Levy Frequently Asked Questions





1. What was the outcome of the Apprenticeship Levy Employer Engagement Consultation?

The Apprenticeship Levy Employer Engagement consultation opened on 29 November 2016 and closed on 23 December 2016. There were 86 responses to the consultation which have been analysed by the Department. The Department is currently preparing a response to the consultation.



2. Will I have a digital account in Northern Ireland?

No, digital accounts apply only in England. They are not available in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales.



3. Will Employers who already pay the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) levy have to pay this Apprenticeship Levy?

The construction sector in NI pays a statutory levy for training to the CITB NI. Similar arrangements also apply in GB where a statutory levy is raised by the GB CITB. The collection of the Apprenticeship Levy is a reserved matter and the Department is aware that a number of NI companies in the construction sector will be subject to two levies. The Department has been working with the CITB NI to assess the specific implications for the Board and the NI employers who will be paying the two levies.



4. As an employer how do I recoup my levy contribution to pay for apprenticeship training?

Employers wishing to take on apprentices will be able to benefit from the ApprenticeshipsNI programme or the new Higher Level Apprenticeships.



5. How are apprenticeships delivered in Northern Ireland?

Apprenticeships are currently delivered through ApprenticeshipsNI and Higher Level Apprenticeships Programmes.





6. How will the levy impact on employers with employees in more than one country of the UK?

ApprenticeshipsNI is open to all employers provided they meet the eligibility criteria. As Apprenticeships policy is a devolved matter there are four different systems operating across the United Kingdom, although with many common themes. The levy will be paid by employers across the UK. So employers who operate across the devolved nations will pay their contribution based on their total number of UK employees.

To understand the implications of those operations across the United Kingdom, as well as those employers working within Northern Ireland, to ensure the Northern Ireland ApprenticeshipsNI offering meets their needs, the Department is continuing discussions with counterparts in England, Scotland and Wales to understand the implications for employers operating and seeking apprentices across each jurisdiction.



7. As a Public Sector employer, how can we recruit apprentices and obtain funding for this?

The Department for the Economy does not provide funding under the ApprenticeshipsNI programme for public bodies. Apprentices can be recruited in the public sector organisations and several bodies have already done so although these are funded by the bodies themselves. The Department is happy to share information on how these apprenticeships can be established.



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