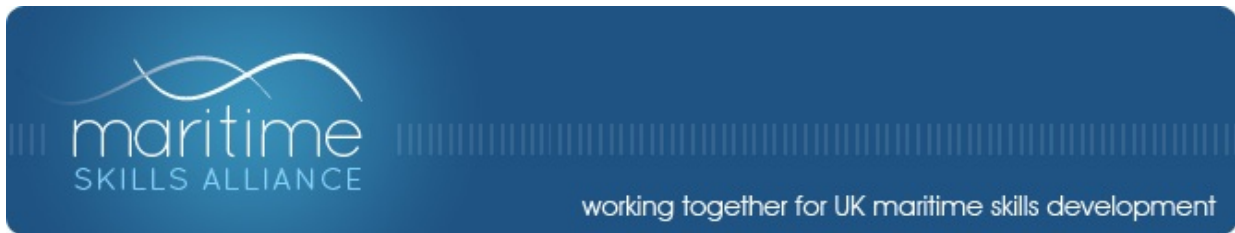


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We work with SQA, the Scottish Qualifications Authority, for all our qualifications *throughout the UK*.

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Maritime Skills Alliance Newsletter

January 2019

Greetings!

It might look like apprenticeship rules are fixed, and qualifications permanent features of the training landscape, but neither's true. We report this month on the latest moves to refine how the Apprenticeship Levy works, and the disappointing loss of a qualification - though it's being replaced with a new apprenticeship, refined by an employer-led group in the light of their experience.

The message is clear: if you don't like the tools you have available to you, please say so. We'll listen, and help to get things changed.

Iain

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The database for this newsletter is only used for this newsletter, never shared with anyone else, and contains only your name, e-mail address and (where we know it) organisation.

You are, of course, free to unsubscribe at any time via the button at the foot of this newsletter - but we hope, instead, that you'll encourage colleagues to sign up!



Review of the Apprenticeship Levy

International Jack Up
Barge Operators'
Association

International Association
of Maritime Institutions

Maritime and Coastguard
Agency

Marine Society and Sea
Cadets

Merchant Navy Training
Board

MYBA The Worldwide
Yachting Association

National Workboat
Association

Port Skills and Safety

Royal National Lifeboat
Institution

Royal Navy

Royal Yachting
Association

Seafarers UK

Sea Fish Industry
Authority

Thames Skills Academy

The Department for Education will shortly begin a review of how the Apprenticeship Levy is working

It is now nearly two years since employers across the UK starting paying the Apprenticeships Levy and the Government is responding to the many calls to review it.

The Chancellor promised the review in his speech to the Conservative Party conference in October, and there is still no clarity about how far the Government might be willing to go. It seems most unlikely that they will consider radical reform. In the interim, the Government invites you to comment: apprenticeships.feedback@education.gov.uk

The view of the MSA Board is that it would be a mistake to disrupt employers' plans with another major overhaul. We should certainly be looking for sensible incremental change, however, and we are often invited to comment. What changes do you want to see?

The requirement for a minimum of 20% **"off-the-job"** training fits well with how most maritime employers set the balance with practical learning, but it has caused confusion in some quarters. The Government has therefore refreshed its guidance with some 'myth-busting' material, available [here](#).

The MSA publishes up-to-date information on the range of [maritime apprenticeships](#) available on our website, and also a series of [Briefings](#) on the Levy (and other things).



Marina & Boatyard Diploma no longer available

There has been almost no take-up since we created the Diploma a few years ago at the request of British Marine and its members, so after a long period of discussion SQA has closed it to new entrants.

Employers looking to give employees a strong foundation through a long-term training programme can use the new

apprenticeship recently designed by an employer-led working group: full details [here](#).

Also in the news ...

Seafarers UK is aiming to collate all the teaching material and other resources currently available to **promote the maritime industry to school children**, of all ages. [Nick Harvey](#), Campaigns Director, would like to hear from you.

The Department for Transport has announced that [16 and 17-year olds will benefit from half-price fares](#) through the introduction of a new railcard. It will be introduced in time for the start of the new academic year in September 2019, and be a benefit to apprentices and other young employees.

To keep up-to-date with what we're doing, please sign up for our newsletter - and please mail this on to others who might be interested.

Iain Mackinnon

Secretary
