

6.2 Public information

It is a standard requirement that specific information on any programme leading to an NFQ award is publically available. Partnership agreements must ensure that providers are aware of this and cooperate with it.

It is particularly important that the “brand image” of apprenticeship, as a mode of learning, appropriate to all higher NFQ levels above Level 4, be developed and encouraged and that the public understands the progression opportunities and nature of work-based learning. Therefore, public information should support the positioning of apprenticeship in this context.

The Coordinating Provider is responsible for ensuring that new apprentices are fully aware of the programme. As apprentices may enter singly into apprenticeship without the support of a cohort or contact with more advanced peers, it is particularly important that the information delivered to the new apprentice is complete and is supported by briefings by the workplace mentor, which cover the full programme on which he/she has engaged.

The Coordinating Provider, along with the programme partnership, is the body within the occupation most directly responsible for programme quality. It should seek to promote quality in the occupation among apprentices and also amongst those qualified.