

Will Howells
By Email

29 May 2009

Dear Mr Howells

Freedom of Information requests

Thank you for your request for information about funding of learning. I apologise for the delay in collating information for a response. Whilst the LSC does not hold the information requested, information is supplied below in relation to each request which might be of assistance in your enquiries as follows

1. How many adult education courses is the LSC funding in the current year (or the most recent with data available) in each of the following subject areas: astrology, colour therapy, crystal therapy, herbal medicine, numerology, reflexology?

The LSC has undertaken a search and can advise that it does not hold information regarding the number of courses offered in subject areas.

In order to be of assistance, the LSC can advise that it holds information in relation to learning aims funded by the LSC.

A search has been undertaken and the LSC can advise that in the current year the following learning aims (which might feature in courses delivered by training providers) are funded or potentially funded by the LSC:

Astrology: None
Colour Therapy: None
Crystal Therapy: None
Herbal Medicine: None
Numerology: None
Reflexology: 15

Learning and Skills Council

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2. What is the net budget allocated for these courses, or are their costs entirely covered by course fees?

The LSC does not allocate budgets for courses and therefore does not hold the information requested.

By way of assistance, information about how the funding of learning aims is determined is published in the LSC Funding Guidance, including the funding rates methodology. This information can be accessed through the following website link:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/EastMidlands/Train_to_Gain_funding_rates_LSC-P-NAT-080078.pdf

The funding rates methodology is published in Annex G of this document

3. What criteria are used to determine whether a course should be offered?

Decisions to offer a course are determined by the training provider. This information will likely be held by each training provider, but is not held by the LSC.

By way of assistance, the Learning and Skills Council will potentially fund a learning aim where the qualification to which it leads has been accredited by the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual), and the qualification has been approved by the Secretary of State for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, in accordance with sections 96 and 97 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000.

Once again, I apologise for the delay in responding and hope the information supplied is of assistance. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

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