

Opportunity for education and skills training providers to bid for European Social Funding in four Local Enterprise Partnership areas



Earlier this year, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) ran a successful European Social Fund procurement, where 47 providers secured a total of £309 million to deliver high quality education and training across 34 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

These contracts started on 01 April 2019 and will run until 31 July 2021. However, there were a small number of areas where none of the providers that bid for funding met the required criteria.

The ESFA is now running an additional targeted procurement worth £4.2 million, so that people living in these areas have the opportunity to benefit from the ESF by learning the skills they need to get on the path to a great career.

The LEP areas are:

Skills Support for the Unemployed

- York North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP
- Greater Lincolnshire LEP (Transition Area)
- North East LEP (More Developed Area)
- The Marches LEP (More Developed Area)
- The Marches LEP (Transition Developed Area)

To access the invitations to tender, interested parties need to [register and follow the on-screen instructions](#).

The deadline for bids is Wednesday 2 October 2019 at 17.00. Once the procurement has closed, the ESFA will send award notifications to successful providers. We will then enter a 10-day standstill period, in accordance with procurement practise.

UK aid to empower young people and boost jobs in Mozambique

The UK is working in partnership with Mozambique to boost jobs and opportunities for young people, Minister for Africa Andrew Stephenson said during his first visit to Mozambique.

Almost half the population of Mozambique is under the age of 16 and the UK is helping shape the future of the country through providing quality education to give children the skills they need to find work.

Mr Stephenson saw first-hand how UK aid is meeting the rising aspirations of Africa's next generation at the Beluluane Industrial Park in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique.

In partnership with the Government of Mozambique, UK aid is providing skills training for 375 young Mozambicans until 2020. This also helps meet the needs of companies and boost economic growth.

Minister for Africa Andrew Stephenson said:

I am delighted to visit Mozambique at this important time. This is one of my first official visits to Africa since I was appointed Minister for Africa in July 2019.

The UK is committed to working with Mozambique, a member of our Commonwealth family, to promote mutual prosperity, create jobs and ensure that Mozambique's young people have the skills they need to benefit from future opportunities.

During his three-day visit, the Minister met with the Foreign Secretary José Pacheco where they discussed how UK investment is helping to boost growth and create jobs. He also discussed how the UK is home to some of the best universities in the world, and this year we have doubled the number of scholarships available to Mozambicans to study in the UK.

Minister Stephenson also travelled to Beira, a city devastated by Cyclone Idai which made landfall earlier this year. The UK was one of the first donors to respond to the cyclone and provided thousands of shelter kits to Mozambique for those that were forced to flee their homes.

During his visit, Minister Stephenson saw how UK aid has supported water and sanitation efforts in resettlement areas which is helping to tackle cholera

and malaria.

Statistical data set: Banana prices

Average weekly wholesale prices of bananas by country of origin

Statistical data set: Wholesale fruit and vegetable prices

Series of weekly average wholesale market prices of selected home grown horticultural produce.

Restaurateur banned for 9 years after concealing tax owed to HMRC

David Cowan (53), of Glasgow, was the sole director of Avenbrae Limited, the company behind Cyan Restaurant. The bar and bistro began trading on Stewart Street, Milngavie, outside Glasgow, in August 2014.

However, David Cowan did not register the company for VAT until a year later, in August 2015.

He then failed to ensure the company filed quarterly VAT returns, which he was duty-bound to do as the company director. This caused HMRC to raise assessments on the company's behalf, which were only partially paid.

In June 2017, an HMRC investigation uncovered that the company had been concealing VAT since August 2014. In September 2017, they requested immediate payment of the outstanding amount.

At the same time, several new restaurants and a hotel in the area negatively impacted footfall to Cyan and, by January 2018, David Cowan had placed Avenbrae Limited into Creditors Voluntary Liquidation.

At the point of liquidation, the company owed HMRC £195,000 in VAT, which

included fines for unpaid tax and VAT due for the final quarter of trading. In addition, the company owed other creditors almost £23,000.

In August 2019, the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from David Cowan for nine years. Effective from 28 August 2019, he is banned from directly or indirectly becoming involved, without the permission of the court, in the promotion, formation or management of a company.

Robert Clarke, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

David Cowan failed to observe his statutory duties as a company director to comply with VAT obligations, and his business gained a competitive advantage as a result, which is unacceptable behaviour.

Any other directors who behave in this way should expect an Insolvency Service investigation and a lengthy ban.

Avenbrae Limited (Company number SC471392).

David Cowan is of Glasgow and his date of birth is February 1966.

Cyan Restaurant was formerly of 14–16 Stewart Street, Milngavie, Glasgow G62 6BW.

Avenbrae Limited appears on HMRC's [list of deliberate tax defaulters](#).

A disqualification order has the effect that without specific permission of a court, a person with a disqualification cannot:

- act as a director of a company
- take part, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, formation or management of a company or limited liability partnership
- be a receiver of a company's property

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings. Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of other restrictions](#).

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is [available](#).

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on: