

Play skills council wants holiday staff rules delay

By Ross Watson
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The sector skills council for playwork is urging the government to ensure holiday play schemes go ahead this year despite changes to staffing rules.

Talks between SkillsActive and watchdog Ofsted confirmed that short-term schemes, which operate in the Easter and summer holidays, can no longer use temporary staff unless they are fully qualified playworkers.

But Lesli Godfrey, national programme manager for SkillsActive, said it was unrealistic to get the required staff qualified this year. She is urging the Department for Children, Schools and Families to make interim arrangements. In a letter, she said: "Playworkers often enter the profession by way of temporary work when they are students in a different discipline. Requiring temporary staff to have a full qualification may well have a longer-term detrimental effect on recruitment to the sector."