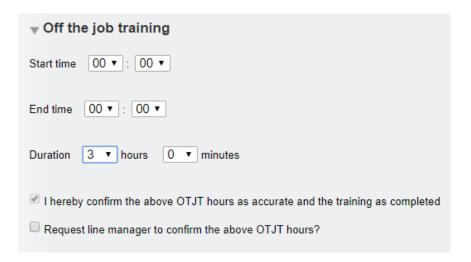
# Off the job training

#### Off the job training as a learner

When you are completing an Apprenticeship Standard you may be required to show you have spent up to 20% of your paid working time on off-the-job training.

The fields for recording off the job training are located in both the Diary and Learner Activity Log. You may be given some guidance by your assessor as to which area they would prefer you to add them to.

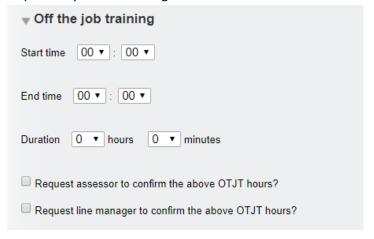


OTJT duration can be recorded in hours and minutes. If you add a start and end time, the duration auto-populates based on those entries. However, there is no requirement to add start and end times if they are not required. You can simply put the duration in manually instead.

When an assessor completes the OTJT section, the declaration "I hereby confirm the above OTJT hours as accurate and the training as completed" appears and is automatically ticked.

NB: your recorded hours won't count if they are logged in an Activity Log entry and the 'Actual date' field is left blank. Please ensure you complete this field too

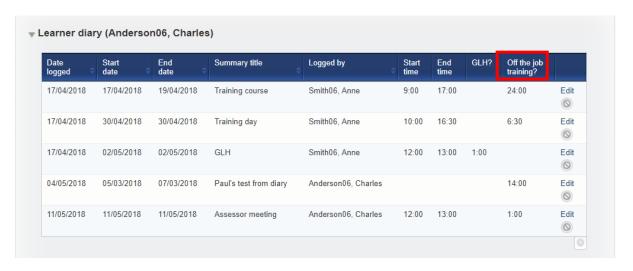
Where your line manager is using VQManager too, both you and your assessor are able to send a request to your line manager to confirm the hours claimed too.



It is possible for you to go into an existing record and request line manager confirmation, if this wasn't done at the time the record was first created.

The Diary can also be used for recording planned off the job training.

A column for off the job training hours recorded appears in both the Activity Log summary and the Learner Diary summary.



A key appears at the top of the table in the Diary and Activity log tab indicating who has confirmed the OTI entries:

OTJT hours key: Learner logged, Employer confirmed, Assessor confirmed, Assessor and Employer confirmed



NB: Where OTJT hours are recorded before the qualification start date, or after the qualification end date, those hours won't be counted towards the total (this includes Diary entries where either the start or end date are outside the qualification start and end dates)

#### The "emailing in" function can also be used to add OTJT to a new diary or activity log entry



Emails can be sent to VQManager by you – <a href="mailto:portfolio@vqmanager.co.uk">portfolio@vqmanager.co.uk</a>. The email arrives in a table on the To Do tab entitled: Emails awaiting further processing and can be added to:

- Learner activity log
- Learner my diary.

If OTJT hours are recorded for before the qualification start date, or after the qualification end date, those hours won't be counted towards the total.

#### **My Progress Summary**

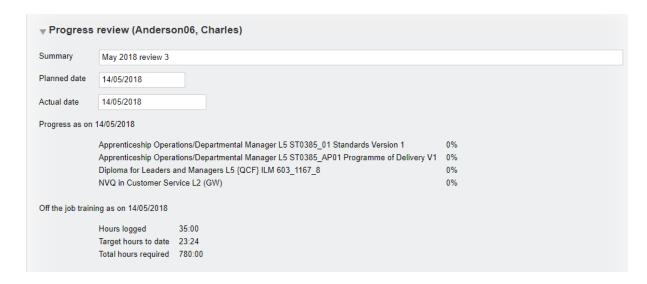
This includes a new bar for OTJT. On and off target are calculated based on an assumption of linear progress over time (this is the same way we calculate on and off target for qualification progress).



This is also visible on the Shortcuts tab

#### **Progress Reviews showing OTJT progress**

When your assessor has completed a progress review, you are able to open that review and see your progress against required OTJT at the point the Progress Review is completed.



### Notification regarding no learning activity in the last 25 days

Due to the new apprenticeship guidance (2022) around Off the Job Training hours indicating that some learning activity should take place every 4 weeks, we have added a notification to go out to you, the assessors and line managers when no OTJ records have been uploaded for a while.

The system will send an e-mail you and your assessor, and your line manager( if one is assigned). The message will say something like this.

Dear [your name],

This e-mail is to remind you that no new Off the Job Training hours have been logged in your account in the e-portfolio in the last three and a half weeks.

Please review your portfolio, and make sure your records there are up to date. If you have any questions about Off the Job Training, or your programme of study in general, please contact your assessor. Contact details can be found on the 'My VQManager Network' tab, in the 'Home' section of your portfolio.

Please note that this is a notification email only and any replies to this email address will not be answered. If you have a query regarding this email or any aspect of VQManager, please contact your Centre Administrator directly.

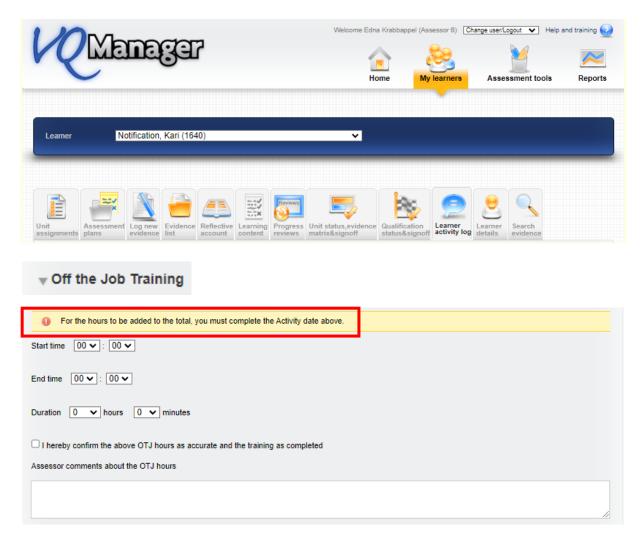
Kind Regards,

The VQManager team

This notification is not intended to remind you that you are a few hours short of the total number of hours required to date. This is just to remind you that you haven't logged any hours recently.

#### Note to remind users to complete the Activity date when logging OTJ in the Activity log.

We have added a note to remind learners and assessors of the OTJ rule in respect of the need to complete the Activity date when they are logging OTJ in the Activity log. It appears as a yellow comments box and has the wording "For the hours to be added to the total, you must complete the activity date above"

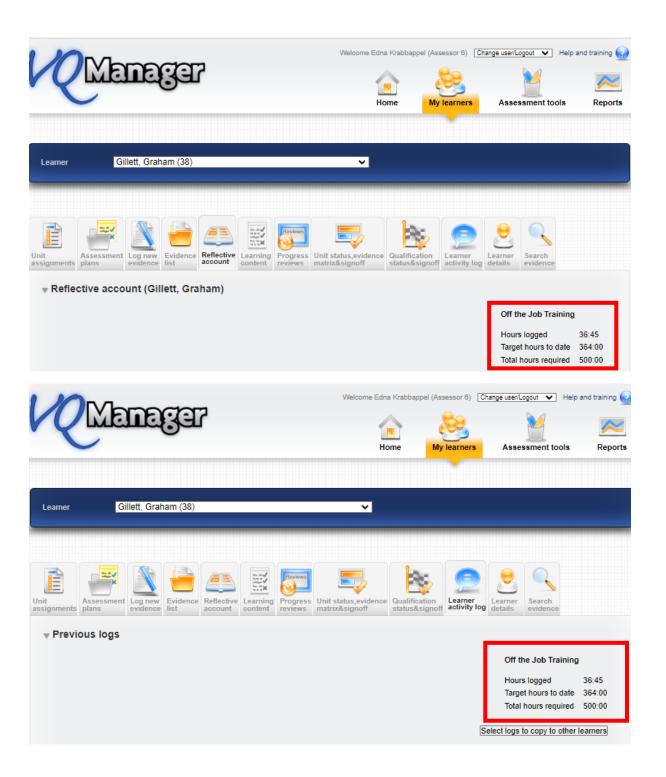


## Add OTJ summary to Diary and Activity log tabs

We have added a summary of Off the Job (OTJ) progress when users are looking at both the **Diary** (Reflective account in the example below) and **Learner activity log** summary pages.

This will only show for learners who have OTJ switched on.

If the centre has had a switch applied so that OTJ can only be logged in the **Diary**, it will not show in the **Learner activity log**, and vice versa.



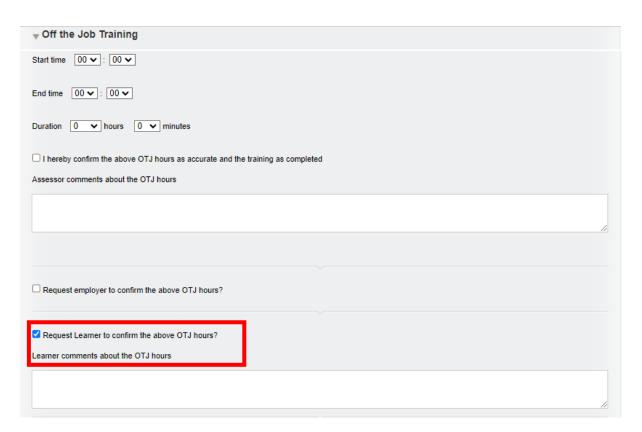
It shows the total across both these tabs where clients are recording hours on both the **Diary** and **Learner activity log**. We have added a mouse-over to indicate this.



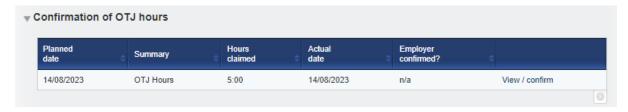
## Adding learner confirmation to OTJ hours records

We have added the ability for learners to confirm logged OTJ hours. This applies equally to the **Diary** and **Learner activity log** entries.

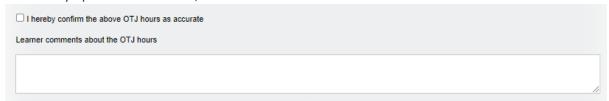
When an assessor is creating a record, there is now an additional confirmation box for them to tick to request learner confirmation. This box is ticked by default, but the assessor can remove the tick if they choose.



This will trigger a notification on the learner's To Do tab.



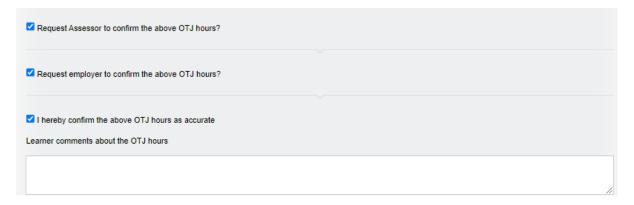
When they open the OTJ record, the learner will have a tick box and a comments box.



On the Line manager's **To Do** tab, we have added a column to the **Confirmation of OTJ hours** table to show if the learner has confirmed the hours or not, as well as displaying this information when they open an individual record.



When a learner is creating a record, there is a tick box and comments box for them. The confirmation box is ticked by default, but the learner can un-tick it if they choose.



Just as a reminder – here are the OTJ rules in full:

For the OTJ hours to count – they MUST:

- 1. Fall within the start date and end dates of **any qualification** they are doing- i.e. if they are doing a framework, the earliest start date and the latest end date for any of those qualifications. (These are set up in the User profile by the Centre Admin) To be clear, this does not mean the OTJ start and end times or dates.
- 2. Be confirmed by the assessor.
- 3. When recording OTJ in the Activity log tab (as opposed to the Diary tab) have a date of activity logged in the Activity date field. Hours won't count if they are logged in an Activity Log entry and the 'Actual date' field is left blank.

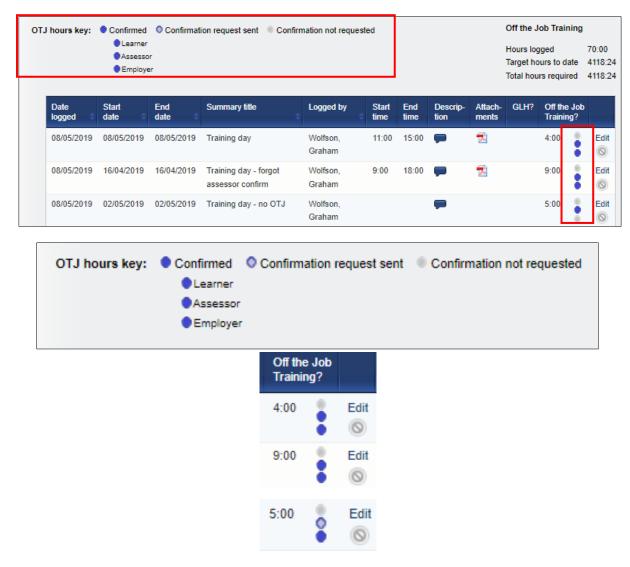
If you think insufficient hours are being included for you, please check all of the above criteria are being met.

#### Alter Activity log and Diary summary screens to increase clarity and add learner OTJ confirmation.

In the **Activity log** and **Diary** tables, it is sometimes difficult to see the difference between bold and normal text for the OTJ hours confirmation information, so we have changed the way this is displayed.

There are three people who can confirm the hours so there are three lights, learner, assessor and line manager (employer).

- A solid blue circle indicates that that user has confirmed the hours.
- Blue edging around a grey circle indicates a request has been sent and is pending confirmation.
- A grey circle indicates no confirmation has been requested.



Any records from before we introduced learner confirmation will show as 'confirmation not requested' for the learner.

Where a learner doesn't have a line manager (employer) assigned, the corresponding entry in the key, and icons in the table, will be hidden.

The role names in the key will adjust as per the centre settings i.e. line manager / employer.

#### Add Learner OTJ confirmation date and comments to Diary and Activity log downloads.

Since we've added learner confirmation to OTJ records, we have also ensured this information has been included in the EPA downloads too.

Here is an example from an activity log:

