Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education
Shaping skills training

22 July 2024

I am writing to update you following the King's Speech last week, which set out the Government's legislative programme and announced the creation of Skills England. The Secretary of State for Education also laid a written Ministerial statement in Parliament today which has provided further detail on the transformation that Skills England will bring and explains that IfATE's functions will transfer to the new body.

The Government has said that Skills England will have a partnership with employers at its heart. This is an excellent endorsement of how your employer community has positively impacted apprenticeships, T Levels and the wider landscape for technical qualifications, and will continue to do so in the future.

Ministers have told me how much they appreciate the work you have done in partnership with IfATE, that they want this work to continue whilst Skills England is being set up, and that they want you to continue your work once responsibility for it moves to Skills England.

It is important to note that Skills England will have more responsibilities than IfATE. The intention is for Skills England to convene employers, unions, education and training providers, and experts with national government to:

- Develop a single picture of national and local skills needs. Skills England will work with industry, the Migration Advisory Committee, unions and the Industrial Strategy Council to build and maintain a comprehensive assessment of current and future skills needs. This will also inform the Department for Education's policy priorities.

- Identify the training for which the Growth and Skills Levy will be accessible - this includes consulting on (and maintaining a list of) levy-eligible training to ensure value for money, and that the mix of government-funded training available to learners and employers aligns with skills needs.

- Ensure that the national and regional skills systems are meeting skills needs and are aligned, including using local and regional vacancy data as part of a robust evidence base. Skills England will convene mayoral combined authorities and other key stakeholders to identify system issues and provide advice to Government, leading to a more coherent system.

Bringing these areas together under a single entity is an exciting opportunity to have more impact on this complex area and for employers to continue to be at the heart of the skills system. We are working closely with our colleagues in the Department of Education on the set-up of Skills England.

IfATE (Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education)
Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

As you know, IfATE's role is to convene employers to set national standards for skilled occupations across the economy and to approve apprenticeships and technical qualifications, as well as make funding band recommendations within the levy. Legislation is needed to transfer these responsibilities to Skills England.

Once legislation is passed, IfATE's functions will transfer to Skills England and the work you have been doing with us will be led out of the new body. Whilst this change works through, our important work with you continues. We do not anticipate legislation passing until Spring 2025, but we will make sure that we keep you updated throughout.

It is important that the fantastic work of trailblazer groups and route panels continues, with IfATE support, and that we can deliver a smooth transition for everyone within the system.

We will work to make sure that the impact on you as a valued partner is minimal. Our expectation is that IfATE staff will transfer with their responsibilities to Skills England and that the relationships you have forged with my officials will continue.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your support for IfATE and your work to help shape the skills system. Together we have created skills maps, apprenticeships and qualifications, described the knowledge, skills and behaviours a learner needs to succeed in skilled careers and ensured training is comprehensive and meets latest industry requirements. These will form the building blocks of the new system.

I am confident that with your support, the establishment of Skills England will simplify the skills landscape, supply the skills we need to grow our economy, and break down barriers to opportunity.

If you have any queries, do get in touch with me or your route managers who stand ready to advise you.

Yours sincerely,



Jennifer Coupland

Chief Executive of IfATE