

Skills and Productivity Board - meeting 1

Wednesday 2 December 2020

13:30 to 16:45

The questions set by the Secretary of State for Education can be found in the initial remit letter sent by the Secretary of State to the chair in November 2020.

Attendees

Stephen van Rooyen (Chair)

David Rey (Senior Advisor to Stephen van Rooyen)

Arun Advani

Claire Crawford

Andrew Dickerson

Ewart Keep

Grace Lordan

Chris Pissarides

SPB secretariat

Department for Education (DfE) officials

Agenda item 1 - Welcome

The chair emphasised that the Secretary of State for Education has a keen interest in the board's work, and it should focus on developing practical and pragmatic insights.

The head of the secretariat outlined the secretariat's role, explaining that it will support the board through 3 main areas: administration and coordination, analysis and research, and policy.

Key objectives for the meeting:

- agree an approach and initial timeline for questions 1 and 2

Agenda item 2 - Setting the context: skills and government policy

DfE officials provided an overview of existing policy work on skills within the department and positioned the board within the context of wider government priorities.

Board members engaged in a Q&A.

Agenda item 3 - Discussing the evidence: skills and skills mismatch

DfE officials presented a high-level overview of current evidence, issues and emerging ideas relating to skills mismatches and productivity.

Board members engaged in a Q&A.

Agenda item 4 - Discussing how to approach the Secretary of State's 3 research questions

The board agreed:

- to prioritise the first 2 questions, which are closely linked, and to consider question 3 in the new year
- that the first work strand would cover definitions of skills and skills mismatches within the board's scope, and criteria to identify those mismatches
- that the second work strand would include evidence collection on the skills identified

Agenda item 5 - Draft workplan

The secretariat shared a draft workplan and the board agreed work strand leads with a lead against each of the questions.

Agenda item 6 - Closing

Next board scheduled for Thursday 28 January 2021.