

Skills and Productivity Board - meeting 3

Wednesday 3 March 2021

14:00 to 18:00

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 officials

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and workplan review

Stephen said the board was moving into a new phase with clear delivery milestones.

Key objectives for the meeting:

- discuss next steps and interim deadlines

Agenda item 2 - Question 1 update and next steps

The board discussed the challenge of identifying whether mismatches identified warrant a policy response.

The board agreed to:

- initial aspects of scope for its research into skills mismatches, including focusing initially on skills shortages (rather than all skills mismatches), and using the O*NET taxonomy to move from occupations to skills when framing skills shortage results¹
- produce a short list of potential indicators to show occupations that could be in shortage

¹ O*NET is a [taxonomy](#) that enables the board to identify the skills most important in occupations and frame its findings on skills shortage in terms of skills (such as writing, or communication) rather than only identifying occupations that appear in shortage.

Agenda item 3 - Question 2 priority areas

The board discussed ways of framing 'priority areas', including industry, sector, or occupation.

The board agreed that:

- board members leading on question 2 and the secretariat would produce a 'narrative document' outlining the rationale behind occupation-based priority areas
- question leads to progress methodology for understanding changing skills (5 to 10 years)

Agenda item 4 - Department for Education skills agenda

Discussion with Department for Education officials on the department's skills agenda and priorities followed by Q&A.

Agenda item 5 - Question 3 priorities and approaches

Group discussed the scale of question 3 and agreed to return to a decision on scope.

Secretariat to share data review of most relevant sources for analysis.

Agenda item 6 - Wrap up and AOB

The board agreed next steps.

Next board meeting scheduled for 15 April 2021.