

Skills and Productivity Board – meeting 8

Wednesday 1 December 2021

10:00 to 12:00

Attendees

- Angela Noon - Chair
- Claire Crawford
- Ken Mayhew
- Ewart Keep
- Grace Lordan
- Arun Advani
- Andy Dickerson
- SPB Secretariat
- Deputy Director for Skills Strategy - Becca Taber
- Deputy Director for Skills Analysis - Frank Bowley

Agenda Item 1 – General welcome from Angela

Angela reflected on her conversation with the SoS that he appreciates the expertise and independence of the board and sees value in this to advance his priorities.

- Board agreed to carry out work-planning in the new year once there is greater clarity over these priorities.

Agenda Item 2 – Future use of Labour Market Information

The Deputy Director for Skills Analysis explained that internal reorganisation of teams and resource within the directorate HEFE meant that the secretariat have moved to sit within his division, reflecting the links with skills research and data analysis work. He set out that the increased use of Labour Market Information (LMI) to help improve the matching of skills supply and demand is a clear emerging priority for the SoS and highlighted that the board's January report and future work will make an important contribution in this area.

Agenda Item 3 – January report

The board had an in-depth discussion on the key messages for its internal January report covering LMI uses, gaps, and applications, drawing on its research this year and wider expertise.

The board confirmed the report will be published in Spring alongside other board publications. The board agreed it was not appropriate to include a technical annex covering the analysis for Question 1 and 2, but that this would be covered in the Spring reports.

The board agreed to:

- Strengthen the section on improvements to LMI on the demand side – including considerations for estimating future demand.

- Explore options around better data at a local level (which could include expanded surveys or more defined roles for intermediaries such as business representative organisations)
- Include a section explaining key concepts relating to labour markets and skills as the report becomes necessarily more technical
- Assign sections to specific board members and arrange separate meetings with the secretariat to develop these

Agenda Item 4 – Any other business

Due to lack of time and focus on the previous agenda item, discussion on Question 3 was deferred for a separate meeting.

- Ken and Ewart agreed to combine papers given the significant overlap in themes.

The secretariat provided a short update on commissioned research projects, confirming the contract for the international comparisons project was on track to be awarded in January.

Next board meeting

11 January 2022