
MINUTES

UK COMMISSION FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS HELD AT THE SIEMENS CRYSTAL, ROYAL VICTORIA DOCK, LONDON E16 1GB

28 JUNE 2013

PRESENT

Charlie Mayfield	Chairman
Michael Davis	Chief Executive

COMMISSIONERS

Bill McGinnis
Dave Prentis
Deirdre Hughes
Grahame Smith
James Wates
Jeremy Anderson
John Coyne
Julie Kenny
Liz Sayce
Nigel Whitehead
Paul McKelvie
Scott Johnson
Scott Waddington
Sean Taggart
Seyi Obakin
Toby Peyton-Jones
Tony Lau-Walker
Valerie Todd
Victor Adebawale

IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Keoghan (Director, Skills & Life Sciences, BIS), Simon Perryman, Ian Kinder, Lesley Giles, Sarah Beal, Moira McKerracher, Carol Gault,

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Frances O'Grady, Gail Cartmail, David Fairhurst, John Cridland, Lucy Adams, Catherine Bell, Rachel Sandby-Thomas and Owen Evans.

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Chairman welcomed Commissioners and thanked Toby Peyton-Jones for hosting the Commission meeting and Commission Summer Reception at the Siemens Crystal.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Commission held on 26 April 2013 were **AGREED** as a correct record.

2 EMPLOYER OWNERSHIP OF SKILLS: BUILDING THE MOMENTUM

Commissioners considered paper **UKCES C [13] 17** and received an update from Michael Davis on progress against the Commission's paper – Employer Ownership of Skills: Building the Momentum. Working through partners encouraging progress was being made in a number of key areas. These were:

Proposal 1: Incentivise Opportunities for Young People

Proposal 2: Move from grants and qualifications to sustainable investment in outcomes

Proposal 3: Continue to create the conditions for greater employer ownership

Proposal 4: Unlock the potential of employer and college collaboration

There was a detailed discussion about each of these areas and the identified next steps; in particular, Commissioners expressed a desire to be more ambitious on youth employment.

Scott Johnson gave an update on the proposed National Insurance consultation which it was anticipated would take place in the autumn.

It was **AGREED**

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That a Youth Employment short life task and finish group, Chaired by Liz Sayce, be established to take stock of the Commission's current position in this area and agree what more can be done.
- (iii) That Commissioners be asked to indicate their interest in this work;
- (iv) That the Group report back to the October Commission meeting;

3 NIGEL WHITEHEAD REVIEW OF ADULT VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Commissioners considered paper **UKCES C [13] 18** which updated Commissioners on the work of the adult vocational qualification review, led by Nigel Whitehead. The review had been underway since March and was on course to report in September. An interim report would be submitted to the Minister in July. Although the review was for England only, conversations were taking place with the devolved nations in case the implications were wider.

Details were given of the project which involved an analysis of the current system and included high level principles of what good adult vocational qualifications should look like.

It was **AGREED** that the report be noted.

4 WORKING WITH THE DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS

A paper (**UKCES C [13] 19**) was presented by the short-life Commissioner group, led by Paul McKelvie and made up of the Commissioners representing the Devolved Administrations that set out:

- The current and emerging priorities of the Devolved Administrations
- How the priorities related to the Commission's strategy for greater employer ownership
- How, through each of its assets, the Commission can best support the nations' priorities
- Examples of best practice within the Devolved Administrations
- What success will look like by 2015 for the devolved nations

The report contained a number of recommendations which it was **AGREED** be endorsed by the Commission.

5 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Commission received and noted update reports and minutes of the meetings of the Strategic Management Group, Audit and Risk Group, Investors in People Group and Investment Group that had taken place since the last meeting of the Commission.

The Commission also received and **AGREED** proposals in paper **UKCES C [13] 24** that set out changes to the governance arrangements which would see Commissioner activity supporting the delivery of the Business Plan.