

The Richard Review of apprenticeships FAQs

Q. What is the purpose of the Richard Review?

A. The purpose of the Richard Review of Apprenticeships is to take a medium-long term look at the future of apprenticeships in England; aiming to identify best practice and ensure that going forward, apprenticeships meet the needs of the changing economy; deliver the qualifications and skills which employers need, to world class benchmarks; and to ensure that government is maximising the impact of public investment in apprenticeships.

Further details are set out in the Terms of Reference available from the BIS website.

Q. What approach will Doug Richard and his team take to reviewing apprenticeships?

A. The approach being taken by Doug Richard will be to engage with employers, individuals, academics and training providers – both those already in the current system and those outside it to determine what apprenticeships should look like in future given the changing needs of the economy and to seek make recommendations about the principles and priorities for any future programme.

In doing so, the review will take account of the current delivery system, but will not seek to undertake detailed systems redesign, instead focussing on identifying core principles and priorities for the future of the programme for government to then take forward with its partners.

Q. What is the timing of the Richard Review of apprenticeships?

The Richard Review started on 11 June 2012 and aims to report in Autumn 2012.

Q. Why was Doug Richard appointed to head up the review? What's his background and how does it relate to this Review?

Doug Richard is a UK-based Californian entrepreneur and specialist in technology transfer, commercialisation, and business growth. He is the founder of School for Startups and has taught thousands of budding UK entrepreneurs in face to face and online classes.

He is independent of Government and committed to entrepreneurship and business growth through people. He brings a fresh perspective to apprenticeships based on an in-depth understanding of businesses and a conviction that the best businesses are grown using workplace based learning.

Q. How does this Review fit with other reviews of apprenticeships (Select Committee, the Jason Holt Review etc.)?

A. These reviews are all separate – the Select Committee review of apprenticeships was requested by Members of Parliament, and the Holt Review had a specific focus on SMEs (although identified some issues that are relevant more widely). The outputs from other reviews are available to Doug Richard and his team to consider as part of their own work, together with a wide ranging evidence base from different research.

Q. How can I/my organisation get involved?

A. In late June we shall publish a call for evidence setting out the key themes that the Richard Review will explore. This will provide the opportunity to put forward views to the Review from then to the end of August.

Doug Richard and his team can be contacted via RichardReview@bis.gsi.gov.uk and the team can be contacted by telephone – 0207 215 6872 / 6873 / 6874.

Q. Does this review apply to the whole of the UK?

A. The scope of the review, as set out in the terms of reference, is to look at the future of apprenticeships in England only.

Q. Are there plans to review apprenticeships in other parts of the UK?

A. Apprenticeships policy is a devolved matter and it is for the devolved administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to determine how they manage their own schemes.