



**Michelle Donelan MP**

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

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Lynda Armstrong  
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January 2020

Dear Lynda,

### **Annual Priorities letter to the ECITB, 2019 - 20**

The ECITB has a vital role in ensuring that our country has the technical skills needed to deliver critical infrastructure and energy projects. This is essential to our economic success as we transition to a low carbon model of growth.

This letter sets out the Government's priorities for the ECITB for this year, in line with the ITB review, and is intended to support you in aligning your work with broader reforms. It should be read in conjunction with other policy statements including the Nuclear and Offshore Wind Sector Deals as part of the Industrial Strategy, and our technical education reforms.

As you know, skills policy is a devolved matter. The Devolved Administrations have their own priorities to meet the needs of their economies and distinct skills systems and these will be communicated separately.

The Government has six key priorities for the ECITB in England for 2019-20:

- Support industry to develop the skills it will need to deliver the £600bn of infrastructure investment earmarked over the next decade in the National Infrastructure and Construction Pipeline. The ECITB should work closely with the Infrastructure and Projects Authority and other partners to identify, plan and deliver appropriate skills and training interventions across its sectors in line with the latest labour market intelligence.
- Deliver strategic, cross-industry initiatives to ensure a steady supply of skilled labour for industry employers, including the Connected Competence programme to standardise training and competency requirements across the site workforce, aiding collaboration and driving efficiency. The ECITB should

continue to work closely with industry to develop skills solutions to the Industrial Strategy Grand Challenges, and deliver the skills components of relevant sector deals, in particular the nuclear and offshore wind, in light of the Government's legally binding commitment to reduce emissions to Net Zero by 2050. The ECITB should facilitate moves between sectors and provide support for upskilling and reskilling.

- Help the industry adapt to changes in the supply of labour and skills needs resulting from the UK's exit from the EU by developing our own talent and growing the UK workforce.
- Help the industry to tackle current and future skills issues, with a primary focus on supporting employers to recruit a diverse and inclusive workforce, engage with the apprenticeships programme and to develop the training that best meets their needs, supporting the implementation of the new engineering and manufacturing T levels and the provision of industry placements.
- Now that you have successfully achieved consensus on proposals for the 2020 Levy Order, continue to work with industry to determine how levy funds can be best used to meet current and future skills needs.
- Contribute to the Department's progress update on delivery of the 2017 ITB review commitments. Ensure recruitment and appointment of trustees maintains a Board majority drawn from industry.

You will also want to consider actions for future years, including whether the scope of the ECITB remains relevant to modern industry practices.

My officials will be in contact in coming months to rationalise the timing for issuing future letters so that they align more effectively with your business planning processes and timelines.

We have extended the sponsorship support provided in recent months and will continue to work closely with you to improve the arrangements, including doing what we can to remove any barriers preventing you meeting your objectives such as facilitating engagement with policy teams.

I should be grateful if, through your quarterly strategic performance reviews, you would keep my officials updated on the delivery of your new three-year business plan (2020-23) and implementation of the ECITB Strategy 2020-22.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Education, Lord Agnew, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Business and Industry, Jamie Hepburn MSP, Julie James AM and the FE Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michelle Donelan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

**Michelle Donelan MP**  
**Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families**