

Quarterly Performance Summary

Quarter 2
July-September 2014

Overall organisation summary

The report for this quarter covers the months July- September. Our performance ratings are in a similar place to last quarter, with a predominance of amber ratings (i.e. 2 greens and 6 ambers). We are however confident that performance is on track. Changes in Ministers in BIS and DfE have not materially displaced activity. However, it is clear that decision making has been slowed on apprenticeships, the wider implications of reform in England and their impact across the UK on vocational standards.

Our work around the skills statement is progressing well. We have tested out ideas internally with Commissioners and with external stakeholders through a series of events. We are now taking the lead in working with BIS on the production of a National Skills Assessment which is intended to be part of a package of activity in late November in promoting career opportunities for young people which No. 10 will lead on. This is an excellent opportunity to really bring our research capability to life and answer the perennial question of 'what should you do when you grow up'?

We continue to support the industrial partnerships. As they progress their work under employer ownership, we have sought their views on the skills statement and continued discussions at a more strategic level about potential areas for future development. The industrial partnerships have been focusing their energies on developing their start-up infrastructure and networks. The majority of them have also been developing new apprenticeship standards which will be used for delivery in 15/16 or earlier.

We are continuing to strengthen employer led innovation through the UK Futures Programme. Having now run two competitions, we have identified good ideas to test and are building learning and evaluation in from the outset. At the same time, we are taking forward further competitions to strengthen our overall programme.

Through the quarter, Commissioner re-appointments have been delayed by both Ministerial change and the interpretation of new guidance on the appointment of women from Cabinet Office. We have sought to minimise the operational impact on UKCES decision making.

The review work of stage 1 of our Triennial Review was completed over the summer. This has not yet been presented to the Minister and we anticipate delays against the agreed timetable. We have though started work on stage 2.

Within UKCES, we are further developing our competency framework and preparing for our Investors in People re-accreditation at the end of November. We have found that feedback from the staff survey this year has been very encouraging. The results will be discussed by the Strategic Management Group (SMG). We are managing our budget and have undertaken a detailed re-forecast of spend for the year. We are forecasting an underspend of £2.5m against our net programme budget of £39.5m.

Headline ratings



Proven impact/
on track to
deliver in
line with
expectations



Impact not yet
proven/ progress
behind expectations
but can get back on
track



Impact unlikely/
progress significantly
behind expectations
and unlikely to get
back on track

Objectives and deliverables	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1 Lead the debate with industry to drive better outcomes for skills, jobs and growth				
1.1 Policy insights/enquiries				
1.2 Intelligence/research				
Communications				
2 Work with industrial partnerships and wider networks to push forward employer ownership of skills				
2.1 Standards and frameworks				
2.2 Industrial partnerships				
2.3 Employer investment programmes				
3 Test out employer-led innovation to address persistent skills challenges				
3.1 UK Futures Programme				
4 Help businesses realise the potential of their people through Investors in People				
4. Investors in People				