



Rt Hon Anne Milton MP

Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills and Minister for Women
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Shirley Watson
Chair, Engineering Construction Industry Training Board
Blue Court
Church Lane
Kings Langley
Hertfordshire
WD4 8JP

10 July 2017

Dear Shirley,

Future of the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board

I am writing to update you and industry colleagues on the review of the construction-related Training Boards, including the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board, which was set in hand last summer.

The original intention was that the report of the review should be published in the spring, but the timing of the General Election meant that we were unable to do that. We now plan to complete the review in the autumn, and expect to publish the report in October 2017.

I recognise that the Engineering Construction sector faces challenges in training and retaining skilled workers to deliver and maintain our critical national energy and process plant infrastructure. The project-based nature of the sector's work, and the high-level skills it needs, create a disincentive to invest skills. We have therefore concluded, and have decided to confirm now, that the ECITB should be retained. I am pleased that your three-year strategy demonstrates your commitment to upskill those already working in the industry, as well as to attract new recruits through apprenticeships and training programmes.

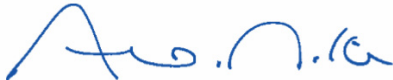
The final ITB review will report in the autumn, and will set out more details of the arrangements we will put in place to make sure that the ITBs are more clearly accountable to the industries they serve, and the specific expectations we have of them. I look forward to continuing to work with ECITB over the coming years.

We are aware that your term of office as Chair has been on an interim basis for

some time. I would like to thank you for your continued service to and leadership of ECITB. I can confirm that we will now be setting in hand an open competition to appoint a permanent Chair. I would like to give your permanent Chair the opportunity to input into the proposals your Board has developed to reform the governance of the ECITB, and the new Chair will also be able to help with the appointment of the new Board.

I am copying this letter to Keith Brown MSP in Scotland and Julie James AM in Wales.

We are also placing a copy of this letter in the House Libraries.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anne Milton'.

**Rt Hon Anne Milton MP,
Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills and Minister for Women**