
DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION

Statutory Notice to the Institute for Apprenticeships

Presented to Parliament pursuant to section ZA2(9)(b) of the Apprenticeships, Skills,
Children and Learning Act 2009, as inserted by paragraph 2 of Schedule 4 to the
Enterprise Act 2016

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5th February 2018

Gerry Berragan

It was good to see you recently and I think it's useful that we continue to meet up frequently to touch base with each other. I am extremely grateful for your work in the IfA, and your enthusiasm for making apprenticeships work is palpable!

I know you are aware that apprenticeships at level 6 and 7 are an important component of our long-term programme of reform to raise the quality and quantity of apprenticeships and to put employers at the heart of decision-making. Apprenticeships at these levels have an important part to play in delivering the skills needed by employers and in the economy to ensure that the UK prospers, and to improve social mobility and widening participation in apprenticeships and higher-level education.

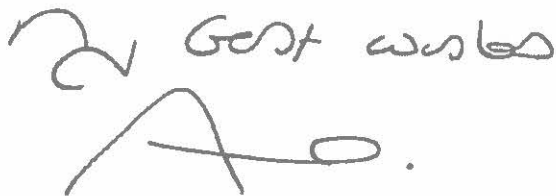
We have already seen strong demand from employers for apprenticeships at these levels, both in the number of new standards under development and in the growth in starts. I have also been pleased with the partnership working between employers and higher education institutions to develop standards.

Apprenticeships at level 6 and 7, that include a degree, were launched in 2015. As more standards become available, and given the potential of these apprenticeships and the level of interest from employers and individuals, it is timely for the government to issue additional guidance. In addition, with the passing of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 and the launch of the Office for Students, preparation for the transition to the new higher education regulatory framework from the academic year 2019/20 is required.

Under the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, the Secretary of State is able to issue guidance to the Institute. This guidance is intended to enable Government to give the Institute steers about the matters to which the Institute should have regard when performing its functions. Further to discussions with your officials, I set out below additional matters relating to apprenticeships at Level 6 and above (including degree apprenticeships) that the Secretary of State asks the Institute to consider:

- How degree qualifications are included in Level 6+ apprenticeships – to align with the wider apprenticeships policy on mandatory qualifications. Additionally the Institute should ensure that the grading system is effective and delivers appropriate judgements of occupational competence.
- The development of L6+ apprenticeships – to ensure they are sufficiently occupationally specific and assigned to the correct occupational levels, and in due course to review this content in existing L6+ apprenticeships.
- Working collaboratively with the new Office for Students as it develops its approach to quality assessment and its data strategy, taking into account apprenticeships as appropriate and working towards the common goal of producing high quality apprenticeships and occupationally competent individuals.

Once again, my very grateful thanks to you and all the staff at the Institute for their ongoing commitment to implement and deliver a high quality apprenticeships programme and make sure that we continue to make the employer journey through these new reforms as smooth as possible.

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Rt Hon Anne Milton MP
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