



**Rt Hon Anne Milton MP**

Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills  
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Lynda Armstrong  
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12<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Lynda,

### **Annual Priorities letter to the ECITB, 2018-19**

We said in the ITB review that we would issue an annual priorities letter to the industry training boards to inform your business planning processes. I have decided to send this letter to you now, following the recent appointment of ECITB's new board and ahead of ECITB's strategy redevelopment, which I know is taking place over the coming months.

In the review the Government concluded that the ECITB has an important role to play in supporting industry to meet the skills challenges ahead. As you develop your plans, ECITB's priority should, of course, be the long-term needs of the engineering construction industry, including small and medium-sized employers. I hope that by setting out the Government's priorities, you will be able to align your plans with the wider policy agenda.

The Government has four key priorities for the ECITB in England for 2018-19:

- Support the 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, such as the Connected Competence programme to standardise training and competency requirements across the site workforce, aiding collaboration and driving efficiency. The ECITB should 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, oil and gas and offshore wind deals. The ECITB should facilitate moves between sectors and provide support for upskilling and reskilling.

- Help the industry to tackle current and future skills issues, including encouraging and enabling greater uptake of apprenticeships, supporting the development of the engineering and manufacturing T levels and the provision of industry placements, and tackling the industry's poor record on diversity. As you implement your new careers strategy, the ECITB should work in partnership with the Careers and Enterprise Company and others to encourage more young people to pursue careers in engineering construction.
- Implement the remainder of your governance reforms. This includes establishing the new ECITB Council to advise the Board on the practical implementation of its priorities and planned reforms to the ECITB's grants system.

You will also want to consider actions for future years, including whether the scope of the ECITB remains relevant to modern industry practices, planning the arrangements for reporting to the industry on your achievements, and starting to prepare for the next consensus round in 2019.

As promised in the ITB review, over the next few weeks we will agree with you how to strengthen sponsorship arrangements. Over the next year, we will continue to work closely with you, including doing what we can to remove any barriers preventing you meeting your objectives.

I should be grateful if you would keep my officials updated as you develop your 2019 business plan, including your proposed success measures.

I am copying this letter to Richard Harrington MP, Alok Sharma MP, Lord Henley, Robert Jenrick MP, Jamie Hepburn MSP, Julie James AM and the FE Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,



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