



Andrea Jenkyns MP
Minister for Skills

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Lynda Armstrong, Chair
Engineering Construction Industry Training Board
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25 October 2022

Dear Lynda,

2023 Department for Education Priorities letter to the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB)

The ECITB, as an Arm's Length Body, shares the aims of the Department for Education: increasing skilled workers and quality training provision within the engineering construction sector. This letter sets out the Government's priorities for the ECITB for the coming financial year, 2023. It is issued annually before the ECITB annual business plan/strategy update is finalised so that the ECITB Board is clear on DfE priorities alongside the sector skills needs identified through your research and industry engagement. I ask that you consider how they may be incorporated into ECITB objectives and delivery for 2023.

The government has set out its clear focus on growth, leading to a stronger economy and better future for everyone. As a body responsible for improving provision of skills within the engineering sector, the ECITB has a direct role to play here. The expertise of the engineering construction industry is under a current spotlight due to the shifting reliance on energy sources but also remains critical in the government's plan to transform the UK's infrastructure. In addition to funding practical training interventions and quality assuring training providers and qualifications research carried out by the ECITB on the current needs of the sector - and forecasting future skill needs as we move closer to the net zero target – is increasingly valuable. Your continued focus across the entire Engineering Construction Industry landscape will help to ensure that the industry has the technical skills it needs. This will enable it to deliver on the government's ambitions and is essential to our economic success and transition to a low carbon model of growth.

I would like to thank ECITB for the work delivered on skills over the last year. For example, the work ECITB has been undertaking through the membership of the Green Jobs Delivery Group has been very valuable to the Delivery Group's work. Alongside this, the conversations ECITB have been having with officials in the

Labour Markets and Sectors team at the Department for Education, have been very valuable in ensuring skills policy continues to support the energy transition to renewables, especially in the nuclear industry. Your work at Hinckley Point C, to help recognise and standardise welding skills, was particularly valued.

The government has 4 key priorities for ECITB in England during 2023:

1. The overarching priority for ECITB will always remain the same – **to make better provision of training to people aged over 16 years within the engineering construction industry.**
2. Lends its **visible and proactive support to Department for Education policies** such as:
 - Apprenticeships: Helping to increase uptake of construction and engineering apprenticeships, including those related to green construction and engineering.
 - T levels: Encouraging employers to get involved with T Levels and offer industry placements as part of wider work to shape reforms to improve and grow higher technical education.
 - Bootcamps: Supporting participation to encourage progression and retention within the engineering construction workforce and giving skilled employees the opportunity to improve their wages when they upskill. With particular focus on reskilling for the transition to net zero through renewable energy and retrofit sectors.
 - Free Courses for Jobs Level 3 offer: Continue to raise awareness of the free qualifications offer to adults without an existing Level 3.
 - Lifelong Loan Entitlement (LLE): Increasing the sector's understanding and interest in the LLE by feeding into specific engagement activities led by the Department.
3. I ask the ECITB to continue supporting and championing skills development necessary to **prepare the workforce for the transition to net zero carbon emissions by 2050**. This should include:
 - Identifying skills needs at a granular level, working with government colleagues to help this information feed into policy.
 - Developing training interventions to equip learners with the skills and knowledge they will need to deliver decarbonisation projects, in line with the cross-government Net Zero Strategy and British Energy Security Strategy
4. I encourage the ECITB to continue use its influence to **promote diversity in the construction sector**. It's important that ECITB helps ensure that training courses and products do not create barriers for workers from more diverse backgrounds and deprived areas.

I ask that you continue to use your business plan/strategic update or other official correspondence, to outline how the ECITB plans to align its work with the priorities outlined above. I know that the ECITB will keep my officials sighted on the ECITB's progress against these priorities, via your Strategic Performance Review meetings.

I have advised my office of my desire to have an introductory meeting with you to discuss opportunities and challenges in the engineering construction sector as well as reflecting on ECITB's achievements. You can expect my office to be in touch with yours, to arrange a suitable date.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Education, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Scottish Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training, Welsh Minister for Local Government, and the FE Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Jenkyns', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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