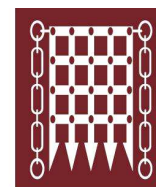


Westminster Employment Forum Keynote Seminar: Priorities for increasing UK productivity - skills, workforce planning and improving organisational performance

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 6th November 2018

Venue: Central London



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Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 - 9.35 **The Industrial Strategy, productivity and the future outlook for the UK industry**
Senior speaker to be confirmed
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.05 **Workforce planning - preparing for the impact of Brexit**
Matthew Percival, Head of Group, Employment Law and Employee Relations, CBI
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.05 - 10.50 **Investing in people - addressing skill gaps, training and upskilling employees**
With the focus in the Industrial Strategy on the need to improve the supply of STEM skills, what initiatives - such as the creation of Institutes of Technology - are needed to help to develop a technical education system to match the prestige of the UK's higher education system? How should the development of sector deals be developed to meet the specific skills required for sustained growth by industries across the UK? In light of the Government's plans to establish a National Retraining Scheme, what further measures can be taken to help adults to retrain and re-skill throughout their lifetime - including transition into management roles; how should organisations and skills and training providers work together in this regard? Following on from the Taylor Review, how might Government work with trade unions to encourage better employee engagement and workforce relations; what actions can unions take to include the voices of those working in low-wage and low-skilled sectors, especially in those sectors where union membership is weak. With sectors deals for key industries being announced, how can employers and industry representatives engage with education and training providers to encourage students to pursue courses providing the skills required for growth; how can such efforts be aligned with the requirement introduced in the careers strategy for schools to provide pupils with employee encounters?
Professor Philip McCann, Chair, Urban and Regional Economics, University of Sheffield and Director, Productivity Insights Network
Sue Ferns, Senior Deputy General Secretary, Prospect
Senior representative, college
Senior representative, employer
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 - 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.55 - 11.20 Coffee
- 11.20 - 11.25 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.25 - 11.50 **Encouraging better job quality - measurement, people management and flexible working**
Ben Willmott, Head of Public Policy, CIPD
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 - 12.30 **Improving organisational performance - innovation in job design and workplace practices**
With the Farmer/Stevenson Review estimating the cost of poor mental health to the economy at up to £42 billion annually, how might employers respond to the growing evidence linking wellbeing with workplace performance; what measures can employers take to address instances such as presenteeism from occurring? In light of evidence that demand for flexible work has placated, what action can be taken by the Government to encourage uptake; should the right to request flexible working be reformed to support further employees to make use of such schemes? How can the introduction of new forms of technology, such as the application of artificial intelligence to work otherwise completed by human beings, be managed so as to minimise disruption to employees and the labour market - and what will be needed from organisational practice and in policy development? With the Government looking to establish an annual measure of the quality of work on offer in the UK, what guidance can be provided to employers; how can best practice be successfully disseminated? Given that SMEs account for 60% of all private sector jobs what special support do they require and how should this be delivered?
Christine Hancock, Director, Oxford Health Alliance
Academic
Senior representative, employer
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Engaging with SMEs, benchmarking and sharing best practice - next steps for boosting productivity in the workplace**
Ann Francke, Chief Executive Officer, CMI
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Employment Forum