

## Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar: Priorities for apprenticeships in Northern Ireland: standards, promotion and the impact of policy

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Venue: Belfast



POLICY FORUM  
FOR NORTHERN  
IRELAND

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Dr Stephen Farry MLA**, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 9.05 - 9.15 **Northern Ireland 'skills barometer': priorities for developing the right skills for the future**  
**Gareth Hetherington**, Associate Director, Ulster University Economic Policy Centre
- 9.15 - 9.25 **Assessing the impact of the Apprenticeship Levy on businesses**  
Senior speaker confirmed from **CBI**
- 9.25 - 10.30 **Promoting apprenticeships across all levels, supporting key sectors and meeting the aims of the industrial strategy**  
*How might sectoral partnerships - through engagement between industry and employers, apprenticeship providers, trainers and schools - be developed to support routes to employment in key sectors? What is needed from government to support small and micro-businesses in areas such as upskilling employees and encouraging engagement with apprenticeship programmes? How can apprenticeships - including higher level and degree apprenticeships - be promoted further to young people and what role can government, industry, apprenticeship providers and schools play in this regard?*  
**Richard Kirk**, Regional Director, Institution of Civil Engineers  
Senior speaker confirmed from **FSB**  
Senior representative, further education  
Senior representative, higher education  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Gareth Hetherington**, Associate Director, Ulster University Economic Policy Centre and a senior speaker from **CBI**
- 10.30 - 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Dr Stephen Farry MLA**, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 10.35 - 11.05 Coffee
- 11.05 - 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
- 11.10 - 11.20 **Characteristics of effective practice in Apprenticeships'**  
Senior speaker confirmed from **Education and Training Inspectorate**
- 11.20 - 12.30 **Raising standards in apprenticeships: assessment, qualifications and promoting excellence**  
*How might options - such as further collaboration between training providers, colleges, universities and employers and the development of centres of specialism and regional expertise - be encouraged and supported to ensure that curriculum design and delivery is high quality, flexible and relevant to the needs of business, industry and students? What role can providers play in improving standards and promoting excellence in qualifications? What support can be offered to those providing on-the-job training - such as further learning and qualifications - to ensure that standards in training are maintained at a high level?*  
**Jackie Henry**, Senior Partner, Northern Ireland, Deloitte  
**Professor David Jones**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Students, Queen's University Belfast  
**Helen Brady**, Nations Head of Policy and Stakeholders, City and Guilds  
Senior representative, further education  
Questions and comments from the floor with senior speaker confirmed from **Education and Training Inspectorate**
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Policy priorities for skills and apprenticeships in Northern Ireland**  
**Michael Gould**, Assistant Director of the Youth Policy Division, Department for the Economy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**  
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland