

Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar

Priorities for apprenticeships in Northern Ireland: standards, promotion and the impact of policy

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 4th October 2017

Venue: Titanic Belfast, 1 Olympic Way, Queen's Road, Belfast BT3 9EP



**POLICY FORUM
FOR NORTHERN
IRELAND**

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**
Sam Davidson, Chair, Employment and Skills Forum, CBI and Group HR Director, Henderson Group
- 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?
Professor Terri Scott, Principal and Chief Executive, Northern Regional College
Richard Kirk, Regional Director, Institution of Civil Engineers
Professor Alastair Adair, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Ulster University
Carolyn Brown, Policy Manager, Northern Ireland, FSB
Questions and comments from the floor with **Gareth Hetherington**, Associate Director, Ulster University Economic Policy Centre and **Sam Davidson**, Chair, Employment and Skills Forum, CBI and Group HR Director, Henderson Group
- 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**
Patsy McGlone MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 11.10 - 11.20 **'Characteristics of effective practice in Apprenticeships'**
Rodney McMaster, Managing Inspector for Further Education and Work-based Learning, 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?
Damian Duffy, Director of Development, Belfast Metropolitan College
Professor David Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Students, Queen's University Belfast
Jackie Henry, Senior Partner, Northern Ireland, Deloitte
Helen Bready, Nations Head of Policy and Stakeholders, City and Guilds
Questions and comments from the floor with **Rodney McMaster**, Managing Inspector for Further Education and Work-based Learning, 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**
Patsy McGlone MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly
Roger Greer, Senior Researcher, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland