

**Scotland Policy Conferences Keynote Seminar:  
Next steps for apprenticeships and skills development in Scotland**

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Venue: Central Edinburgh



SCOTLAND POLICY  
CONFERENCES

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Daniel Johnson MSP**, Shadow Education Minister, Scottish Labour Party
- 9.05 - 9.15 **Priorities for youth training and employability**  
Senior speaker confirmed from **Skills Development Scotland**
- 9.15 - 10.05 **Promoting uptake of vocational education: encouraging participation, qualifications and improving diversity**  
*How should schools and local authorities work together to promote vocational education as a positive destination for young people in Scotland, for instance through earlier provision of careers advice? What should be the next steps for the Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland in working effectively with the SCQF Partnership to ensure that vocational and academic qualifications are seen as equally valuable amongst parents, pupils and businesses? What are the key policy priorities needed to improve diversity in uptake of vocational education, for instance in encouraging women into STEM subjects?*  
**Aileen Ponton**, Chief Executive, SCQF Partnership  
**Talat Yaqoob**, Director, Equate Scotland  
Speaker confirmed from **Career Development Institute**  
Senior representative, school  
Senior representative, local authority  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.05 - 10.40 **Case study: foundation apprenticeships in practice**  
*With foundation apprenticeships being rolled out across all of Scotland's local authorities by August 2017, what lessons can be learnt from previous pilot programmes about the qualifications' ability to foster greater collaboration and partnership working between education and industry? What do the experiences of young people previously enrolled in foundation apprenticeships tell us about the benefits of the qualification, such as gaining work experience at a younger age, as well as potential areas for improvement?*  
**Helen Young**, Depute Head, Engineering, West Lothian College  
**Connor Waldron**, former Foundation Apprentice in Manufacturing and Engineering  
Senior representative, industry  
Questions and comments from the floor with senior speaker confirmed from **Skills Development Scotland**
- 10.40 - 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Daniel Johnson MSP**, Shadow Education Minister, Scottish Labour Party
- 10.45 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Bill Bowman MSP**, Member, Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee
- 11.20 - 11.40 **Graduate apprenticeships and addressing the mid-career skills gap**  
*With graduate apprenticeship pathfinders covering ICT, construction and engineering having been introduced this year, what are initial impressions of their performance? As development of the graduate apprenticeship qualification continues following the pathfinder programme, what more can be done to ensure that the qualification is capable of addressing Scotland's mid-career skills gap, whilst meeting the needs of individual workers and the wider business community?*  
**Dr Sally Smith**, Dean, School of Computing, Edinburgh Napier University  
**Maggie Morrison**, Vice President, Scotland, CGI  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 - 12.25 **Assessing the impact of the Apprenticeship Levy: employer engagement and the Workforce Development Fund**  
*With many SMEs still unaware of the full implications for them of the Apprenticeship Levy, how can the Scottish Government work to improve understanding of the Levy and help manage any impact on apprenticeship numbers and on businesses? How will the Workforce Development Fund work in practice, in terms of eligibility and distribution of funds between apprenticeships and other training programmes? What more can be done to streamline the Levy process for cross-border businesses, in terms of reducing the administrative burden of engaging with the UK's four distinct skills system, and allow them to focus instead on raising the skills of their employees?*  
**Gregor Scotland**, Senior Policy Executive, CBI Scotland  
**Ian Hughes**, Partnerships Director Scotland, CITB  
**Andrew Witty**, Director of Sector Policy, Colleges Scotland  
Senior representative, SME  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 **Next steps for apprenticeships and skills development in Scotland**  
Senior representative, policy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Scotland Policy Conferences closing remarks**  
**Bill Bowman MSP**, Member, Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee  
**Michael Ryan**, Deputy Editor, Scotland Policy Conferences