

Enterprise and Learning Committee

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Response To National Assembly Wales: Enterprise and Learning Committee's inquiry: 12 June 2008

GoSkills is the Sector Skill Council for Passenger Transport. The footprint comprises airline, aviation on the ground, bus, coach, bus and coach engineering, community transport, driver instructors, inland waterway, light rail, rail operations, rail engineering, taxi, chauffeur and private hire and transport planning. It was licensed in October 2004. The organisation has roots in two previous National Training Organisations (TRANSFED for bus and coach and CfRS for rail). It represents its employers on a voluntary basis but does offer membership. It has a Sector Skills Agreement and Sector Qualification Strategy in place

The sector groups into three major business drivers; those businesses which deliver passenger transport services to the end customer, those that engineer the equipment and infrastructure (bus, coach and rail) and those that provide support services (driving instruction and transport planning). These activities are spread throughout Wales, Scotland, England and Northern Ireland.

The sector demands for higher level skills follow these drivers. For those delivering passenger transport services the general skills of business management are required, often blended with operational knowledge. In Engineering there are both specialist needs in areas such as railway signalling and track engineering and generalist in electrical, mechanical and electronic. There is a recognised route via a second degree for those entering the Transport Planning profession.

The demands are fulfilled via general higher level programmes in business management, engineering degrees with specialist input as required and dedicated transport planning qualifications. Within the current English framework our employers are exploring the benefits of Foundation Degrees as they offer work based experience as a key component of the qualification. This theme has value across all the Nations.

There are links with HEI's on the transport agenda in general specifically the University of Glamorgan.