

Enterprise and Learning Committee

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National Assembly for Wales: Enterprise and learning Committee Inquiry 12 June 2008

Skillsmart Retail is the SSC for the retail sector: its activities concern the sale of goods for personal or household use or consumption. Wales accounts for 5% of all UK retail enterprises.

Background

Previously an ITB: No

Industry levy: No

Date of licence: 2004

SSA Wales Action Plan signed off: February 2008

SQS signed off: January 2008

Direct funding via Skills Development:

Sector Skills Fund: £100,000

HEI engagement

HE is not a priority for the Welsh retail sector and its employers. However, we have developed links with the University of Wales Institute Cardiff which offers the country's only retail degree, and with Swansea Institute. HEFCW and Skillsmart Retail maintain an ongoing relationship.

Our SSA research identified something of a skills deficit store management level, and we have carried out further work since then to examine the issue in more detail and to explore ways in which it may be addressed. Although the current demand for Foundations Degrees from retailers is low, the ongoing and future requirement for enhanced store management skills means that this may be potentially an area for development.