

Agenda – Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – The Senedd

Meeting date: 19 April 2018

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

Gareth Price

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddEIS@assembly.wales

Private pre-meeting (09.00–09.15)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

2 Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning – The Apprenticeship Levy – one year on

(09.15–10.15)

(Pages 1 – 26)

Eluned Morgan AM, Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning

Andrew Clark, Deputy Director, Further Education & Apprenticeships Division,
Welsh Government

Sam Huckle, Head of Apprenticeship Policy, Welsh Government

Attached Documents:

Research brief

EIS(5)–09–18(p1) Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning

EIS(5)–09–18(p2) Stakeholder responses to the Committee’s inquiry on
Apprenticeship Levy: one year on



3 Paper(s) to note

(10.15–10.20)

3.1 Letter from the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee to the Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning regarding Work-based Learning

(Page 27)

Attached Documents:

EIS(5)–09–18(p3) Letter from the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee to the Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning regarding Work-based Learning

3.2 Letter from the Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning to Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee regarding Work-based Learning

(Pages 28 – 30)

Attached Documents:

EIS(5)–09–18(p4) Letter from the Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning to Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee regarding Work-based Learning

3.3 Letter from the Chair to Openreach requesting further information – dated 19 March 2018

(Pages 31 – 32)

Attached Documents:

EIS(5)–09–18(p5) Letter from the Chair to Openreach requesting further information – dated 19 March 2018

3.4 Additional information from Openreach in response to the Committee's letter dated 19 March 2018

(Page 33)

Attached Documents:

EIS(5)-09-18(p6) Additional information from Openreach in response to the Committee's letter dated 19 March 2018

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from items 5, 6 and 7 and the start of the Committee meeting on 25 April

5 Paper(s) to note

5.1 Letter from the Presiding Officer regarding Resourcing for Brexit scrutiny

(Pages 34 – 35)

Attached Documents:

EIS(5)-09-18(p7) Letter from the Presiding Officer regarding Resourcing for Brexit scrutiny

5.2 Brexit: An update on the possible implications for committee business – Chairs' Forum, 7 February 2018

(Pages 36 – 39)

Attached Documents:

EIS(5)-09-18(p8) Brexit: An update on the possible implications for committee business – Chairs' Forum, 7 February 2018

6 Consideration of draft report: Enterprise Zones

(10.20–10.55)

(Pages 40 – 80)

Attached Documents:

EIS(5)–09–18(p9) Draft report

7 Consideration of draft report: Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 – Post–Legislative Scrutiny

(10.55–11.30)

(Pages 81 – 117)

Attached Documents:

EIS(5)–09–18(p10) Draft report

Private de–brief (11.30–11.40)

Agenda Item 2

Document is Restricted

Evidence paper from the Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee - Apprenticeship Levy in Wales

Overview

Over the last few years, Wales has ensured the comparability of the skills contained within its apprenticeship programme, with those delivered across the UK and other Group of Seven (G7) nations. The approach supports the mobility and progression of employees within occupations, between jobs and across sectors; which is increasingly important in an expanded global market place. As automation and artificial intelligence become the norm within any job role, apprenticeships will facilitate skills standards, ensuring the competence of our workforce and increase the momentum around the acquisition of technical knowledge; particularly in light of the challenges brought about by Brexit.

During September 2017, the Welsh Government published its National Strategy, 'Prosperity for All'. In December 2017, to support delivery of 'Prosperity for All', the Welsh Government published its Economic Action Plan for Wales. The Employability Plan was published on 20 March 2018 and sets out how the Welsh Government will support those furthest from the labour market, the economically inactive, and those at risk of redundancy, into work¹. The Apprenticeship Programme makes a major contribution to the delivery of all these plans.

Apprenticeships

The 'Apprenticeships Skills Policy'² is aimed at the needs of the Welsh economy, responding and pre-empting industry changes and combining that with a focus on improved economic and social returns. Without a solid nucleus of skills, it is hard for an individual to thrive in the jobs market. To be specific, the Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning has highlighted her three priorities for the programme:

- *eliminating the qualification gap between Wales and the rest of the UK;*
- *driving inclusivity, diversity and fair work; and*
- *responding to current and projected skills gaps.*

Eliminating the qualification gap between Wales and the rest of the UK

We are preparing for a radical shift in the world of work to ensure the workforce is ready for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow such as automation, artificial intelligence and robotics by:

- Improving the content of our Apprenticeship Frameworks. During 2017, we considered the content of all our operational Apprenticeships Frameworks, with the aim of making them more relevant to the needs of employers. This year Welsh Government will take on more responsibility for the design of Apprenticeships and we will consult on a new process for the approval and regulatory compliance of Apprenticeship Frameworks in Wales. We will commission new frameworks, using themes put forward by Regional Skills Partnerships, in conjunction with employers in their areas, and approved by the new Welsh Apprenticeship Advisory Board.
- Expanding higher-level apprenticeships. We intend to increase the number of Higher Apprenticeship Frameworks (at levels 4 & 5) and to provide a key

¹ <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/employability-plan-for-wales/?lang=en>

² <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/apprenticeships/apprenticeships-skills-policy-plan/?lang=en>

Evidence paper from the Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee - Apprenticeship Levy in Wales

focus on Science, Technology and Engineering to create a new generation of professionals to drive innovative practices, create new products, and raise productivity levels. The Minister has set an operational target of at least six thousand Higher Apprenticeship starts to be delivered per year; commencing academic year 2018/2019.

- Introducing Degree Apprenticeships. From this September, Digital/ICT Degree Apprenticeships (at level 6) will be available for the first time in Wales and shortly after, we will offer Degree Apprenticeships in Engineering.
- We will continue the work we have started with employers (in key sectors) to integrate Apprenticeships into their workforce plans, in order to support those already in work and those new to the labour market.
- Drive change across the skills landscape. We will use the ongoing facilitation of our employer sector clusters to drive forward modern skills delivery in partnership with key employers and their supply chains.
- A new area of work involves working with specific sectors that could be disadvantaged by Brexit, with the aim of identifying potential skills gaps and significant shifts in the economic structure.

Driving inclusivity, diversity and fair work

We have a responsibility to break the cycle of low-skills, low-pay. For many people – particularly those with low qualifications – low-paid work is not providing a stepping-stone to a higher-paid job, and instead people are becoming trapped in low pay employment. Our central focus is on progression into higher-level training. The disadvantaged have the most to gain from learning new skills that lead to career opportunities and the apprenticeship programme provides both through:

- The actions we have taken to ensure that lower level apprenticeships are not an endpoint but the start of the journey.
- The procurement and use of a comprehensive equality toolkit, to support the apprenticeship providers and employers, which includes specific modules on gender identity, stereotyping and unconscious bias.
- Working to increase the number of disabled people undertaking an Apprenticeship. Working with Remploy to match those who are participating in the Work Choice programme into apprenticeship opportunities. This brings together the combined efforts of two major programmes, ensuring disabled people access work and receive skills that will help them remain and progress in employment. The Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong learning has indicated that participation levels for disabled people are expected to double year on year throughout this Assembly term. Please see Table 1 below.
- Ensuring the Welsh element of the Apprenticeship Pay Survey is undertaken on a regular basis and work with Apprenticeship providers and employers to address concerns raised within that survey. Intensify our efforts to influence the Low Pay Commission and UK Government regarding Apprenticeship pay levels.

Data on disabled learners – Apprenticeship learners by Academic year

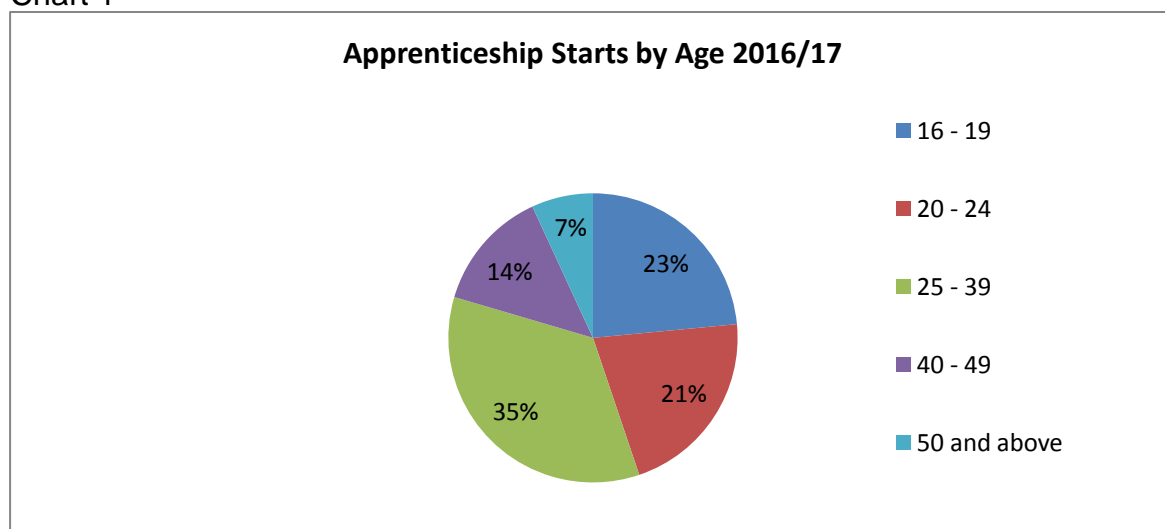
Table 1	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Not Disabled	98.7 %	98.7%	98.6%	98.5%	98.4%
Disabled (affecting learning)	1.3 %	1.3%	1.3%	1.4 %	1.5 %
(there is a small additional element of unknowns)					

Responding to current and projected skills gaps

About 23% of apprentices are aged 16-19 (see chart 1). At this age, support and encouragement is required to help apprentices to take that step into employment, as it is one of the most important transition points in anyone's life. Around 21% of our apprentices are aged between 20-24. This again is a key transition point in terms of the labour market; we see young people starting an apprenticeship after A levels or following a Further Education or Higher Education course. We intend to respond to future skills gaps by:

- Increasing the number of 16-24 year olds, as a percentage of our programme, year on year as we move through the term of this government. Added to this we will continue to strengthen and introduce reporting on our pre apprenticeship support offer namely:
 - Junior Apprenticeships for pupils aged 14-16 to provide a first step towards an apprenticeship; and
 - Preparation to Apprenticeship programme for 16-24 year olds, providing a supportive work experience and college based intervention.
- We have not delivered a new Apprenticeship Matching Service as we had anticipated. We have taken our time to look at a possible replacement and the connected landscape that is required for Apprenticeships in terms of its platform and functionality. We are moving to a more defined and cyclical process for advertising apprenticeship vacancies which will be maximised during the periods when students leave school/college, together with a new employer zone to showcase the range of employers involved in Apprenticeships.
- Our biggest innovation is our Have a Go programme, aimed at raising the profile of vocational education through allowing young people to have a vocational experience in a college or school. It has been highly successful, engaging with over 55,000 young people over the last year.

Chart 1

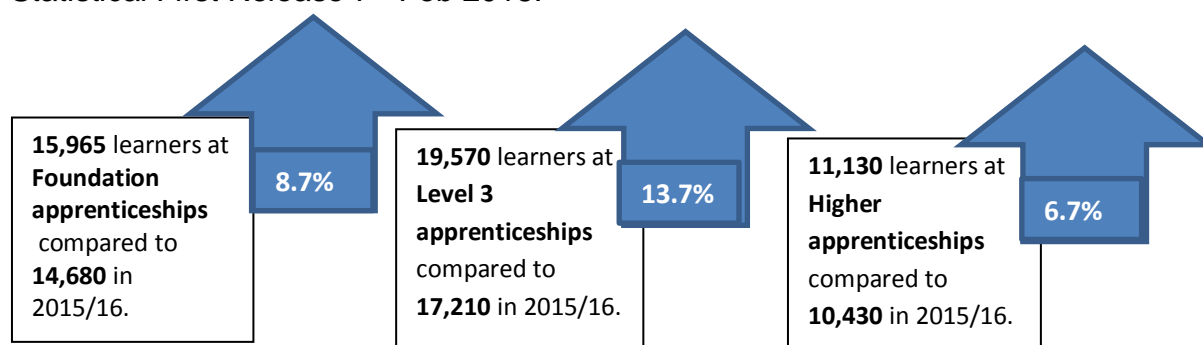


Source: StatsWales

Performance

Our apprenticeship policy outlines how we will deliver a high quality apprenticeship offer, in line with the needs of the Welsh Economy, while creating at least 100,000 high quality apprenticeship places over this Assembly term and we are making very good progress against this commitment. We have increased our investment in apprenticeships from £96m (2016-17) to £115.5m (2017-18), a further £115m is being invested in 2018-19 to ensure that small, medium and larger employers have access to apprenticeships in priority areas. Chart 2 indicates the general direction of travel on apprenticeships over the 2015-2017 period.

Chart 2 - Full learner count for 2016/2017 on Apprenticeships as published in the Statistical First Release 7th Feb 2018.



Number of new learning programme starts:

Year	Foundation Apprenticeships	Apprenticeships	Higher Apprenticeships
2016/2017	9,890	9,550	4,675
2015/2016	8,410	9,300	5,980

Dip in Higher Apprenticeship Start figures are due to more stringent rules around recruitment and initial assessment of apprentices to ensure they are capable of achieving the full Apprenticeship Framework.

Learners on apprenticeship programmes have to achieve a range of qualifications in order to gain the full apprenticeship 'framework'. In 2016/17, 81 per cent of learners across all Foundation Apprenticeship, Apprenticeship and Higher Apprenticeship programmes achieved this, the same rate as in 2015/16. 2016/2017 – The best performing areas in terms of framework achievements were ICT, Engineering and Education.

Employers, the Economy and the Apprenticeship Levy

The demand resulting from the introduction of the Apprenticeship levy is still at the forefront of our work on apprenticeships, in terms of engagement, programme content and the creation of apprenticeship recruitment and workforce development plans. However, we need to be mindful that the levy has been introduced at a time when the UK Government has cut Wales' funding for day-to-day services by nearly £1bn in real terms since 2010-11. Despite this, the Welsh Government is continuing to invest in apprenticeships and help both Levy and Non Levy payers across Wales.

Evidence paper from the Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee - Apprenticeship Levy in Wales

The UK Government's approach to the levy hasn't worked. In England, apprenticeship numbers have fallen rapidly. The Welsh Government argues, as do many major employers, that a radical overhaul is needed to implement a system that positively assists employers to build the skills they need in an ever changing workplace. For instance, changing the focus towards tax relief measures for companies recruiting new apprentices rather than continuing with what is essentially an employment tax. Welsh Government do not know who is paying the Apprenticeship levy (only HMRC have access to that data) we are however doing all we can to work with employers across Wales on apprenticeships in order to drive forward our aims for the Welsh Economy.

In Wales, we are trying to support our employers through a range of actions:

- We have established a new independent employer-led Welsh Apprenticeship Advisory Board (WAAB) under the Wales Employment and Skills Board that has representation from levy and non-levy paying employers. It will need to challenge and champion the learning content contained within the apprenticeship programme, ensuring gaps in frameworks/standards are considered and addressed swiftly and, where ever possible, ensure that apprenticeship skills are portable and recognised; particularly in industries that operate across borders.
- A revised employer's communications toolkit will be available before the summer, with the target audience being all employers in Wales. We want to position the guidance to meet the needs of all employers and dispel any concerns that levy or non-levy paying employers' access to apprentices is different in any way. We will continue to highlight our policy objectives in the toolkit. We have established and strengthened a small team of officials dedicated to working with employers to diagnose their needs and understand how the content of apprenticeship frameworks can be adapted.
- Employers of all sizes are provided with the same initial level of support, advice and guidance; in the future this work will proactively seek out and provide advice to levy paying employers supported by marketing activities. Further support, if required, is tailored to their specific needs once the initial diagnostic has been completed. To date, Welsh Government has been in communication with over 400 companies (either directly or via intermediaries) across Wales. In addition, the Business Wales – Skills Gateway has referred over 700 employer enquiries to the National Training Federation for Wales (NTFW), the Wales wide representative body for all those organisations or individuals involved in the training industry. We have also delivered 3 regional 'Meet the Provider' events.

We have been working with Federation for Small Businesses to maintain and improve our engagement with the sector and a joint action plan has been produced to support this work. The perception of smaller businesses does not seem to have changed drastically in that the levy 'transaction' does not affect them. They believe that provision and access to apprenticeship provision remains constant. However, more needs to be done to continue to engage with small businesses across Wales and specific marketing action is planned in this area to realise that aim.

Evidence paper from the Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee - Apprenticeship Levy in Wales

Sector clusters – We have been working with large companies to adopt a ‘cluster’ type approach to engage and deliver apprenticeships and provide fair work across a range of sectors namely:

- Health – Dental Nursing; Specialist Therapies, Laboratory Technician, Data Informatics and Pharmacy.
- Early Years and Care – Childcare and Social Care.
- Public Sector – Local Authorities workforce planning Public Sector Finance.
- Foundational Economy - Food & Drink Sector, Fisheries, Agriculture & Farming, Heritage Skills and Heritage building skills, Retail and Sport.
- High Value areas - Environmental / Decarbonisation, Life Sciences, Metro/Rail, ICT (cyber, big data, software), Legal, Chartered Management; Construction; Engineering / Manufacturing, ‘Power’ sector, Media / Journalism, Aerospace and Continuous Improvement systems.

Stakeholders are concerned about our approach to skills around the Foundational Economy, particularly as higher and technical level apprenticeships continue to expand and are prioritised accordingly. The Apprenticeship Unit has been monitoring the level 2 landscape carefully and will shortly explore the option of creating a foundational economy programme that delivers level two-type provision in certain areas likely to be reclassified outside of apprenticeships. Development work in this area is due to commence during June 2018.

Conclusion

Since its publication in February 2017, progress has been made to deliver the vision contained within our Apprenticeship Skills Policy; but more importantly the policy is already influencing the wider skills system. Further and Higher Education officials, the Apprenticeship Unit, and officials from the Schools have successfully pulled together programmes and projects to create a more distinctive vocational skills pathway. Welsh Government continues to listen to the concerns from both Levy and Non Levy paying employers and we are confident that our approach to apprenticeships in Wales is fair with a key focus on structural change to drive forward the Welsh Economy.

Mae linc isod i ymatebion rhanddeiliaid i ymchwiliad y Pwyllgor ar yr Ardoll
Brentisiaeth: gwaith dilynol

<http://www.senedd.cynulliad.cymru/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?id=298&RPID=1510401381&cp=yes>

Please find below a link to the stakeholder responses to the Committee's inquiry on
Apprenticeship Levy: one year on

<http://senedd.assembly.wales/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?id=298&RPID=1510401381&cp=yes>

Eluned Morgan AM
Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning

19 March 2018

Dear Eluned

Work-based learning

As you will be aware, at its meeting on 14 March the Committee heard evidence from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training on his 2016/17 Annual Report.

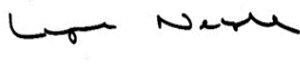
The Committee noted that the Annual Report said that the three work-based learning providers inspected during 2016/17 required follow up.

In oral evidence, the Committee heard that Estyn had concerns about work-based learning and these sat mostly with the leadership of providers. The Committee heard that standards were good or better in only about half of providers and that neither learner progress nor completion rates were as they should be expected to be.

The Committee would appreciate your views on the above and any action being undertaken in this regard.

I look forward to your response regarding this matter. A copy of this letter will be shared with the Chair of the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee given the relevance of this area to his Committee's portfolio.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AM, Chair

Cc Russell George AM, Chair, Economy, Infrastructure and Skills
Committee



Agenda Item 3.2

Eluned Morgan AM
Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes
Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/EM/1181/18

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

5 April 2018

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your letter of 19 March regarding the quality of work-based learning (WBL) in Wales. You mentioned some issues highlighted in recent Estyn inspections of WBL, relating to leadership and learner outcomes.

We are committed to ensuring that all Welsh Government funded provision meets high standards of quality, and like you I was concerned to see the shortcomings highlighted in Estyn's annual report. I have outlined the action we are taking below.

Monitoring of WBL providers' performance

You may be aware that WBL provision is managed under a contractual relationship with performance and delivery monitored on an ongoing basis. As part of our contract management processes, we occasionally identify issues with a learning provider's performance and will work with that provider to ensure necessary improvements are made.

The Welsh Government is contractually able to terminate a WBL provider's contract with no more than 60 days' notice, and will not hesitate to do so if it believes that a provider is unable to remedy inadequate performance within an acceptable timeframe. However, we are committed to giving all providers the opportunity and time to improve before taking such a step. We believe that this gives a degree of stability which is in learners' and employers' best interests.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

An Estyn inspection that judges the performance of a WBL provider as 'Unsatisfactory' or 'Adequate' is not something that is taken lightly. Post-inspection, all providers are required to submit a robust action plan to WG, detailing how they will address each of Estyn's recommendations. Officials then meet with Estyn and the provider to discuss the efficacy of the plan. This meeting will result in one of two outcomes:

- Where it is felt that the plan is relevant, sufficiently far reaching and above all achievable, officials will allow the provider to continue with its contract under strict monitoring conditions. However, the provider is made aware that its contract may be terminated at any time if it is unable to evidence sufficient and timely improvements in performance. This would include a second 'Unsatisfactory' judgement following re-inspection by Estyn.
- Where the plan appears to fall short of what is required to improve performance, or it is clear that improvements cannot be made quickly enough, a provider will be notified of the intention to terminate its contract.

Of the three WBL providers that were inspected in 2016/17, officials already had concerns in relation to some elements of their performance and had already been working with them to address these issues. However, we were not sighted on all of the areas identified by Estyn as these could only reasonably be identified via a thorough inspection process.

Inspections are carried out over a seven-year cycle and so, inevitably, each year's inspection schedule will look at a sample of three or four providers. We do not believe that the providers inspected by Estyn in 2016/17 are representative of the wider WBL network. Of the 19 directly contracted providers, we currently only have concerns about four providers; three of which were inspected this year and the other was inspected in 2016 and judged 'Adequate'.

During the current 2017/18 inspection cycle, Estyn have inspected two further WBL providers. Both providers have received positive inspection results.

Learner outcomes

Your letter also mentioned learners' progress and completion rates. The main performance measure we use for apprenticeships is 'framework success': the percentage of all learners who complete and attain the full framework of qualifications that makes up their apprenticeship programme. We have maintained apprenticeship success rates of more than 80% for several years and I do not consider this to be an area of concern.

I am aware that Estyn inspections look in depth at learner outcomes and, in particular, at how long it takes learners to complete their programmes. The Welsh Government does not routinely use this 'timely completion' measure for a number of reasons: we recognise that individuals learn at different paces and with different degrees of pressure at work, and we expect learning providers to be flexible in supporting learners to achieve their goals, even if this takes longer in some cases than others. It is also worth noting that the available data relies on learning providers' own estimates of expected end dates for learning programmes, rather than an objective analysis of how long it 'should' take an individual learner to achieve. My officials do, however, monitor timely completion and will challenge providers if it is apparent that a large proportion of learners are taking longer than expected to complete their qualifications.

Support for quality improvement in the WBL sector

We have also introduced a wider programme of work to support improvement in the WBL sector. This is led by the National Training Federation for Wales (NTfW), the representative body for the sector. In 2016 we introduced a Head of Quality post in the NTfW for the first time, funded by the Welsh Government through the European Social Fund. The postholder, Kelly Edwards, started in May 2016 and we have recently extended her post until May 2021.

Kelly's role is to support and challenge the WBL sector to improve the quality of delivery. She has initiated a wide-ranging programme which includes a Quality Managers' network, an annual Teaching, Learning and Assessment programme, and a series of professional learning events for leaders and practitioners. These cover areas such as digital learning, giving learners effective feedback, coaching and assessment for learning. This is the first time the WBL sector has had a co-ordinated programme of support, and feedback to date has been extremely positive. Alongside this, we are actively promoting best practice through the Apprenticeship Awards and the VQ Awards, both of which have categories to recognise excellent tutors and assessors.

On a more general point, you will be aware that we are developing proposals to establish a new Tertiary Education and Research Commission for Wales, which would have responsibility for planning, funding and quality across the post-compulsory education and training sector, including WBL. The intention is that the Commission will have overall statutory responsibility for both quality assurance and enhancement, giving it a more explicit role in driving improvements. The next stage of consultation will be launched shortly, and we will be seeking stakeholders' views on how the new Commission can best support workforce and leadership development in all sectors.

I hope this response reassures you that we are actively working to ensure high standards of delivery across the whole WBL sector, with a view to ensuring that all learning provision matches the instances of good and excellent practice that already exist.

Yours sincerely



Eluned Morgan AC/AM

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes
Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning

cc Russell George AM
Chair, Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee

Kim Mears
Strategic Infrastructure Development
Openreach
Kelvin House
123, Judd Street
London, WC1H 9NP

19 March 2018

Dear Kim,

Thank you for your letter dated 20 February responding to the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee's action points raised at our meeting on the 25 January. The Committee has discussed your response and would like you to kindly expand on the answers you provided.

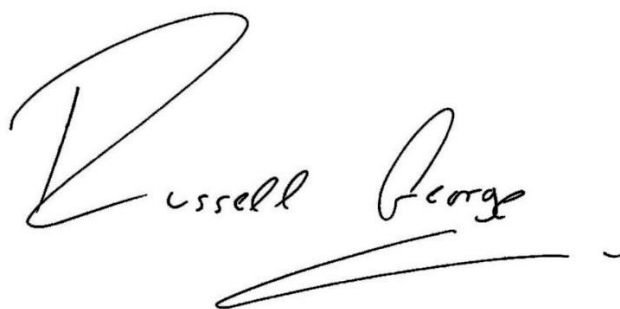
At the meeting, we asked what number of premises connected with Fibre-to-the-Premises technology under Superfast Cymru are accessing superfast services from a provider other than BT. In your reply you mention that FTTP is regulated and open to all providers to use at the same wholesale cost. You included a link to FTTP with a [Fibre FAQ](#) which quotes; 'we've already given more than 27.4 million homes and business premises access to fibre broadband, and we're adding around 28,400 each week'. However, it is not clear from your response how many premises connected with FTTP under Superfast Cymru are accessing services from a provider other than BT. Could you clarify, please?



We also asked what the current take-up of BT's superfast services via the Superfast Cymru network is, and what the corresponding figure is in areas where Openreach has deployed superfast broadband on a commercial basis. The reply you sent failed to answer the question. I wonder if you could elaborate on your response.

I look forward to receiving this further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell George". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Russell George AM
Chair
Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee



Agenda Item 3.4

22 March 2018

Thank you for allowing Openreach to give evidence to you on 25th January. In response to the actions:

A question relating to Fibre-to-the-Premises, what number of premises connected with FTTP technology under Superfast Cymru are accessing superfast services from a provider other than BT?

Having reviewed the question, we cannot provide this information directly as it would be commercially detrimental to our customers to do so. What we can say however is our FTTP product is regulated and open to all providers to use. When it becomes available, all providers are notified at the same time. In other words, there is no discrimination in how the product is offered. A list of providers that offer the service are listed here:

<https://www.homeandbusiness.openreach.co.uk/fibre-broadband/ultrafast-broadband/ultrafast-fibre-buy-it-now>.

What the current take-up of BT's superfast services via the Superfast Cymru network is. What is the corresponding figure in areas where Openreach has deployed superfast broadband on a commercial basis?

The current aggregate take-up in Superfast Cymru areas is 41%. In our commercial areas, take-up is broadly in line with this.

Kind Regards,

Kim Mears

Agenda Item 5.1

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 5.2

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 6

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 7

Document is Restricted