

Owen Evans

His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales

Estyn

25 February 2025

Dear Owen,

Apprenticeship pathways – work experience

Thank you for providing written evidence to the Committee's inquiry into apprenticeship pathways. Members have found your response and a number of your published reports interesting and useful.

One of the areas Members are particularly interested in is work experience. We have identified targeted and tailored work experience as potentially an important element that will help students make an informed choice about if they would like to pursue an apprenticeship.

We are keen to hear Estyn's views and findings on the current provision of work experience across Welsh schools so we can take it into account as part of our inquiry. We are particularly interested to hear your views on the following:

- Do all schools offer sufficient meaningful work experience opportunities? If not, what are the barriers and what can be done to address them?
- Is there any specific best practice that should be replicated across Wales?
- To what extent are parents or carers having to secure work experience placements due to the lack of capacity, or ability, to do so within schools?
- Are there any barriers for specific learners that needs to be addressed, for example learners with disabilities or additional learning needs, or from disadvantaged areas?



Thank you for your time considering this request. I would be grateful if you could reply by Friday 14 March.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew RT Davies

Andrew RT Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

