



2022-0003202ABPO

Alex Burghart MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills

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Mr Fraser Harper
Director, Blue Mirror Insights Ltd
By email: harpef@bluemirrorinsights.com

15 February 2022

Dear Mr Harper,

Thank you for your email of 20 January regarding the coordination of green skills in education.

In November 2020, we launched the Green Jobs Taskforce, working in partnership with business, local areas, skills providers, and unions, to ensure we have the skilled workforce to deliver net zero and our Ten Point Plan. Following that, and building on the Skills for Jobs White Paper, the Net Zero Strategy was published in October 2021 and set out how the Government's skills reforms will support teachers understanding of sustainability, strengthen links between employers and providers, support workers in high carbon sectors with the transition, and help to build a pipeline of future talent.

Going forward, a new Green Jobs Delivery Group will be the central forum through which government, industry and other key stakeholders work together to ensure that the UK has the workforce needed to deliver a green industrial revolution.

The Group will include Ministerial representation from the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Education, the Department for Work and Pensions, and other departments as required. It will also importantly be co-chaired by an industry representative to ensure an inclusive view of the action on green jobs needed for net zero and wider environmental goals.

The Group will be active for the duration of this Parliament and will aim to drive forward industry and government action across a range of topics, which might include: ensuring we have the skilled workforce to deliver net zero and wider environmental goals in line with the UK's levelling up agenda; ensuring workers and communities in high carbon sectors are supported with the transition in the wider context of the UK's levelling up agenda; better understanding and addressing barriers to recruitment, retention and progression in green jobs (including quality of work, pay, conditions, image, etc.); ensuring green jobs are open to all; building on the work of the Green Jobs Taskforce to develop a clearer understanding of the green economy and how to define and measure it.

We are also delivering skills programmes to boost green skills, as set out in the Net Zero strategy. Through the National Skills Fund (NSF) investment, we are delivering Skills Bootcamps, which are short, flexible courses lasting up to 16 weeks. Green Skills Bootcamps are available in areas such as housing retrofit, solar, nuclear energy and vehicle electrification. We have now launched an Invitation to Tender, inviting potential suppliers across England who have the necessary expertise to apply for funding to deliver the next phase of Skills Bootcamps in the next financial year. The tender is split out into seven lots to deliver Skills Bootcamps in a range of sectors and skills areas, including a dedicated lot for green skills. More information about the Skills Bootcamps procurement is available here: tinyurl.com/2P8RURUZ.

Since April 2021 the Free Courses for Jobs offer has been supporting adults who do not have a qualification at Level 3 or higher to access over 400 Level 3 courses for free. In addition, we have recently announced that, from April, this year, any adult in England earning under the National Living Wage annually (£18,525) or unemployed will also be able to access these qualifications for free, regardless of their prior qualification level. Numerous qualifications included in the Free Courses for Jobs offer can support learners into green jobs. For example, we have included technical qualifications in Engineering, Electrical installation, Horticulture and Forestry.

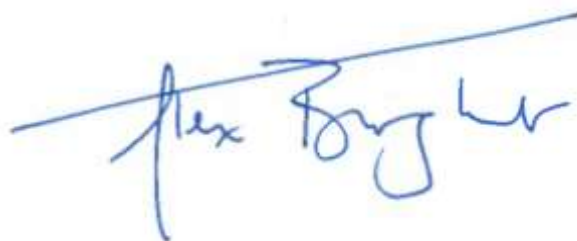
At post-16 level, we will continue to build on our apprenticeship reforms, to align most post-16 technical education and training with employer-led standards by 2030. A strengthened system of employer-led standards, underpinning apprenticeships, T-Levels and new higher technical qualifications will ensure employers, including in low carbon sectors, have a central role in designing and developing qualifications and training.

We are also introducing Local Skills Improvement Plans, which will be developed by employer representative bodies working closely with employers, post-16 education and training providers and key local stakeholders. These Plans will articulate unmet and future skills needs and key changes needed to ensure technical skills provision is responsive to local labour market skills needs. Through the Skills and Post-16 Education Bill, we are legislating to put the employer leadership of these Plans on a statutory footing and ensure they consider skills needed to help deliver on our net zero target, adaptation to climate change, and other environmental goals.

Taken together, and alongside the wider suite of reforms to the skills system being implemented by government in partnership with industry, these measures will help to ensure more people can get the skills they need to enter and progress within green jobs.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Alex Burghart MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills