

9 January 2018

Dear member,

As you will be aware, there have been a number of policy and political changes recently that will impact the skills agenda. Below is a concise update:

- Technical Education Reforms (including a Policy Review for further information)
- T Level Consultations and Events
- Cabinet Reshuffle

## Technical Education Reforms

Central government is in the process of reforming the **Technical Education** landscape in England. There are four crucial changes employers should be aware of:

1. The technical and vocational system and the qualification market are going through major restructures, resulting in the **overhaul of every delivery aspect of Technical Education from entry level to level 5. It is important to note that the policy applies only to England.**
2. For post-16 students, there will be a **choice between a technical and an academic option.** Within the technical option, **there are two routes to skilled employment covering classroom-based training programmes (T Levels) and work-based programmes (apprenticeships).**
3. Emphasis is placed on meeting industry requirements to raise productivity, primarily **through employer representation in the 15 technical routes.** The sector needs to ensure that the economy-critical energy and utilities employers have a voice within the broader engineering and manufacturing technical route.
4. The reorganisation will see a **streamlining and reduction in the number of publicly-funded technical and vocational qualifications.**

Our Technical Education Policy Review provides more information, including an outline of the UK Government's Technical Education Policy for England, its progress, next steps and the impact it will have on the sector. You can view the Policy Review [here](#).

Energy and Utility Skills is holding a **Technical Education and T Level Online Policy Forum on 19 January 2018 (rescheduled from the 12 January) at 11am** to discuss the impact, next steps (to agree the sector's positioning) and the Government's consultation on the policy. Please contact [me](#) for further information and joining instructions.

## T Level Consultations and Events

To support the policy implementation of the Technical Education and T Level reforms, central government has launched two consultations:

1. **Implementation of T Level Programmes** - This consultation sets out proposals for T Levels. It seeks views on how to implement them so they meet the aims of the [Sainsbury Report and Post-16 Skills Plan](#). The Department for Education (DfE) will be hosting free consultation events for employers to have their say. The aim of the events is to enable stakeholders to provide a better-informed response to the consultation, which **closes on 8 February 2018**. For further details about these events and to book a place, please visit: [aoc-create.co.uk/event/tlevel2018/](http://aoc-create.co.uk/event/tlevel2018/)
2. **Occupational Maps** - In November 2017, the Institute for Apprenticeships took ownership of occupational maps from the DfE. These resources will help determine how occupations are categorised and, in turn, how T Levels are structured and administered. The IfA is seeking views on

the occupational maps to ensure they capture the relevant occupations in each route and that these are grouped coherently. **This consultation closes on 25 January 2018.**

Energy and Utility Skills will be submitting responses on behalf of the sector. If you would like to contribute to this or would like us to raise a concern, please contact [me](#).

### **Cabinet Reshuffle**

Justine Greening has resigned from the post of Education Secretary and has been replaced by Damian Hinds, the former Employment Minister. The reshuffle is set to continue today and we will update members on all the relevant promotions, demotions and exits from the cabinet and the implications of Justine Greening's departure.

We will keep you updated as our work progresses and welcome [your comments and questions](#).

Kind regards

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