



## **Skills Commission**

### **Inquiry into technician and higher level skills**

March, 2011

## **Call for evidence**

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The Skills Commission is undertaking an inquiry examining provision for technician and higher level skills. The inquiry is being chaired by Professor Alison Halstead, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Aston University, and is being supported by the Gatsby Foundation, Pearson and the Tec Trust Fund.

The Commission will be holding a series of evidence sessions and taking written evidence submissions until 31 May 2011.

The Commission will also be holding a series of regional meetings throughout the inquiry.

### **Key questions**

The Commission will consider the following key questions:

- What do employers need from technician and higher level skills training?
- How should technician and higher level skills training be funded?
- How do we ensure there are clear progression pathways through technician and higher level skills training?

### **Key issues**

All evidence broadly relating to the inquiry is welcomed. In particular the Commission invites evidence on the following areas:

- Existing provision of advanced and higher vocational qualifications, advanced and higher apprenticeships, and foundation degrees.
- Progression pathways from 14-19 vocational qualifications, advanced and higher apprenticeships, foundation degrees, and the advice and guidance that is available to participants.
- Whether the range of 14-19 vocational qualifications, advanced and higher apprenticeships, and foundation degrees is meeting employer needs.
- Current funding arrangements and how funding drives employer, participant and provider behaviour.
- The role of higher education, further education and private providers in the provision of technician and higher level skills training.
- International models of delivery for technician and higher level skills training.

The Commission would be grateful for all types of evidence, including information on any research you or your organisation has carried out and personal or organisational experiences/views on the issues.

## Contacts

All evidence should be submitted to Christopher Hall, the Commission's Research Manager on: [christopher.hall@policyconnect.org.uk](mailto:christopher.hall@policyconnect.org.uk) or 020 7202 8577.

For more information about the inquiry and to see the terms of reference, please visit: <http://www.policyconnect.org.uk/sc/skills-commission-inquiry-2011-technician-and-higher-level-skills>

## Membership of the Commission for the inquiry

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Professor Alison Halstead            | Inquiry Chair   |
| Barry Sheerman MP                    | Co-Chair  |
| Dame Ruth Silver                     | Co-Chair  |
| Ian Ferguson                         | Chair, Metaswitch Networks and Data Connection Ltd          |
| Andy Palmer                          | Head of Skills, BT  |
| Sarah Andrews                        | Group HR Manager, Johnson Controls                          |
| Tony Moloney                         | Manager, UK Learning and Development, National Grid         |
| Sir Mike Tomlinson CBE               | Former Chief Inspector of Schools                           |
| Frank McLoughlin CBE                 | Chair, 157 Group, and Principal, City and Islington College |
| Photoula Kypri                       | Pearson   |
| Professor Joy Carter                 | Chair, UVAC and Vice-Chancellor, Winchester University      |
| Daniel Sandford Smith                | Gatsby Foundation   |
| Professor Lorna Unwin                | Institute of Education                                      |
| Jacqui Henderson CBE                 | Tech Trust Fund   |
| Professor Michael Thorne             | Vice-Chancellor, Anglia Ruskin University                   |
| Simon Bartley                        | Chief Executive, UK Skills                                  |
| Dinah Caine CBE                      | Chief Executive, Skillset                                   |
| Peter Mitchell                       | Chief Executive, Edge                                       |
| Robert Halfon MP                     | Conservative Member of Parliament for Harlow                |
| Lord Tim Boswell                     | Conservative peer   |
| Gordon Marsden MP                    | Shadow Minister for Skills                                  |
| Baroness Margaret Sharp of Guildford | Liberal Democrat peer                                       |

## Supporters

The inquiry is being supported by the following organisations and charitable trusts:

