

29 July 2024

I am writing to update you following the King's Speech, which set out the Government's legislative programme and announced the creation of Skills England. The Secretary of State for Education also laid a written Ministerial statement in Parliament which has provided further detail on the transformation that Skills England will bring and explains that IfATE's functions will transfer to the new body.

I want you to know how much we at IfATE appreciate the work you do in partnership with us. It is important that this work continues whilst Skills England is being set up, and we want to continue our joint work once responsibility for it moves to Skills England.

It is important to note that Skills England will have more responsibilities than IfATE. The intention is for Skills England to convene employers, unions, education and training providers, and experts with national government to:

- Develop a single picture of national and local skills needs. Skills England will work with industry, the Migration Advisory Committee, unions and the Industrial Strategy Council to build and maintain a comprehensive assessment of current and future skills needs. This will also inform the Department for Education's policy priorities.
- Identify the training for which the Growth and Skills Levy will be accessible - this includes consulting on (and maintaining a list of) levy-eligible training to ensure value for money, and that the mix of government-funded training available to learners and employers aligns with skills needs.
- Ensure that the national and regional skills systems are meeting skills needs and are aligned, including using local and regional vacancy data as part of a robust evidence base. Skills England will convene mayoral combined authorities and other key stakeholders to identify system issues and provide advice to Government, leading to a more coherent system.

Bringing these areas together under a single entity is an exciting opportunity to have more impact on this complex area. We are working closely with our colleagues in the Department of Education on the set-up of Skills England.

The intention is to bring forward legislation to pass IfATE's functions to Skills England. The exact timing will be dependent on the passage of the bill; we will make sure that we keep you updated throughout this exciting and positive development for our sector.

It is important that the significant contribution from our partners continues, with IfATE support, and that we can deliver a smooth transition for everyone within the system.

We will work to make sure that the impact on you as a valued partner is minimal. Our expectation is that IfATE staff will transfer with their responsibilities to Skills England and that the relationships you have forged with my officials will continue.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your support for IfATE and your contribution to helping shape the skills system.

I am confident that with your support, the establishment of Skills England will simplify the skills landscape, supply the skills we need to grow our economy, and break down barriers to opportunity.

If you have any queries, do get in touch with me or your usual IfATE official who stands ready to advise you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Coupland". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jennifer Coupland

Chief Executive of IfATE