

The Sector Skills Council for Lifelong Learning

Business leaders appointed to board for UK employment and skills commission

The Government has announced the Commissioners who will be members of the new UK Commission for Employment and Skills. Innovation, Universities and Skills Secretary John Denham said: *I am pleased we have been able to attract a board of such a high calibre with such a broad range of representation from the private, public and third sectors, and from the trade unions. The UK Commission will have an unprecedented opportunity to influence the employment and skills systems of the four nations of the UK, helping our systems be more responsive, relevant and high performing for the 21st century.* [Read more](#) (DIUS)

A better scheme is on its way

The Government said it would respond to employers' concerns over the Train to Gain scheme by improving specialist brokerage services and offering a wider range of qualifications. John Denham, Secretary of State for Skills, has published a plan to ensure that, by 2010, the scheme meets its target of training 800,000 people a year for level two (equivalent to five good GCSEs) qualifications. Under plans, skills brokers will provide more industry-specific expertise. (FE Focus)

Experts meet to assess the UK's migration needs

A new panel of independent experts has met for the first time to discuss where the UK labour market needs migration and where it does not. Membership of the panel of experts in labour market economics were confirmed today ahead of the meeting, a few days after the Home Secretary signalled the UK was less than one hundred days away from the introduction of the points system. [Read more](#) (Home Office)

Appointments to Scottish Funding Council

Three new members have been appointed and two existing members have been reappointed to the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning Fiona Hyslop has announced. The new members are Dominic McKay, Paul McKelvie and Alan Stannett. The members being re-appointed are Ian Adam and Ian Murning. [Read more](#) (Wired-Gov)

Adult learning essential to local economy in Northern Ireland

Employment and Learning Minister, Sir Reg Empey, has presented Essential Skills Certificates to a group of adult learners from South Eastern Regional College. The learners, all mothers and grandmothers, undertook their courses at Seymour Hill Primary School and Knocknagoney Primary School and cited an interest in their children's education as a key motivator to get involved in their own learning. [Read more](#) (DELNI)

Learning and Skills Observatory Wales goes live

A new interactive website - The Learning and Skills Observatory Wales, which will provide a database of research and analysis on education, learning, skills and labour market information in Wales has been launched. Visitors to the new website,

www.learningobservatory.com will have the opportunity to share knowledge and best practice and participate in forums on policy analysis. Users will be able to access up to date information keeping abreast of the latest research and analysis on learning and skills. The database is the only one in Wales with information and intelligence on an all age education, from early years through to skills and lifelong learning. [Read more](#) (WAG)

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

Policy Initiative & Region	Detail	Timescales
Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland 'Careers education, information, advice & guidance strategy'	To make policy proposals for the future development of Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG) and to set out a strategy that will address the CEIAG needs of individuals of all ages. Visit the DELNI website	Closing.28 December 2007
Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland 'FE Means Business'	Policy Proposals for: Curriculum Provision in Further Education Colleges to Support the Economy; Curriculum Provision in Further Education Colleges to Support Social Inclusion and Provision in Further Education Colleges for 16 to 19 Year Old Learners. Visit the DELNI website	Closing 7 January 2008
Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland 'Review of Higher Education in Further Education policies, including Foundation degrees'	This consultation seeks views on the Department for Employment and Learning's recommendations for the future of Higher Education in the Further Education sector, including recommendations for the development and delivery of Foundation Degrees. Visit the DELNI website	Closing 7 January 2008
DIUS - Improvement in the Further Education Sector – A consultative prospectus for a new sector-owned organisation.	John Denham, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills has announced the coming together of QIA and CEL to form an entirely new organisation dedicated to developing and supporting the excellent further education sector employers, learners and communities need. Through this joint DIUS / CEL / QIA consultation we invite those who lead and work in further education to help us shape and steer an entirely new organisation. Visit the DIUS website	Closing 25 January 2008.
DIUS - Innovation	Innovation can make a huge contribution to our economy, to our society and to our quality of life. We're interested to know how we can encourage and foster innovation across the UK. Visit the DIUS website	Closing 31 January 2008.
DWP - Improving specialist disability employment services – public consultation	This consultation contains proposals to reform our disability employment services that help disabled people who have complex issues to find, retain and progress in work – the Job Introduction Scheme, Work Preparation, WORKSTEP, Access to Work and the role of Disability Employment Advisers in Jobcentre Plus. We are seeking	Closing 10 March 2008

	views about the reforms proposed in the consultation. Particularly, we are interested to hear from disabled people, employers and organisations that represent the interests of disabled people. Visit the DWP website	
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zoevipond@lluk.org

Happy holidays! This is the final Policy eNewsround of 2007. We'll be back in 2008..

