

**BIS** | Department for Business  
Innovation & Skills

**BIS RESEARCH PLANS 2012-13**

An Overview of Economic and  
Social Research

NOVEMBER 2012

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# Foreword

I am delighted to introduce this overview of the research we propose to undertake during 2012/13. BIS is responsible for a wide range of policy areas which together contribute to the Government's growth agenda. The challenges we face in putting the UK on a sustainable long term growth path are large and complex. This portfolio of research aims to provide the insights and rigorous evidence base that we need to address these challenges and enable the right conditions for growth.

The Government's Plan for Growth lays out four key growth objectives and the BIS research plans are firmly rooted in these. This paper therefore categorises our research according to the three growth objectives that relate to BIS policies:

- to create a more educated and flexible workforce,
- to make the UK the best place to start, finance and grow a business and
- to encourage investment and exports.

We hope that this provides useful clarity on our plans, and will enable external researchers to use the research we commission more effectively, and thereby provide further evidence and analysis to inform our policies.

I am most grateful to all those who have contributed to the development of this strategy as well as to those who will be implementing it.



Amanda Rowlatt  
Chief Analyst, BIS

# Research Plan Overview

BIS is at the heart of delivering the Government's growth agenda. The focus for the Government was set out in four clear ambitions in the 2011 Budget, three of which sit firmly in this Department:

## **i) To make the UK the best place in Europe to start, finance and grow a business**

- improving the UK's ranking in major international indices of competitiveness
- a lower domestic regulatory burden
- more finance for start-ups and business expansion
- an increase in the proportion of planning applications approved and dealt with on time

## **ii) To create a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe**

- supporting more apprenticeships than any previous government
- home to more of the world's top universities than any other country except the USA
- an increase in the participation of 16-24 year olds in employment or learning
- narrowing the educational attainment gap, allowing everyone to meet their potential
- lowest burdens from employment regulation in the EU

## **iii) To encourage investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy**

- ensure the UK remains one of the top destinations for foreign direct investment (FDI)
- an increase in exports to key target markets
- an increase in private sector employment, especially in regions outside London and the South East

- an increase in investment in low carbon technologies

**iv) To create the most competitive tax system in the G20 (Treasury led)**

- the lowest corporate tax rate in the G7 and among the lowest in the G20
- the best location for corporate headquarters in Europe
- a simpler, more certain tax system

The BIS research strategy is firmly rooted in these objectives and we have categorised our projects according to which of the growth objectives they are contributing towards.

In addition to the growth objective that they are working towards, all BIS research projects have also been categorised according to the type of research undertaken. These are listed below along with a description of the research type:

**Policy Development**

Projects under this research type will relate to a specific strand of policy. This research will underpin our day-to-day understanding of the policy area, influencing the development and implementation of new and existing policies.

**Strategic and Cross-cutting Research**

This research will consist of work that cuts across a number of areas within a policy team or will have substantial analytical uses across the entire department. Some projects under this category may also have wider insights for work with other government departments.

**Policy and Programme Monitoring and Evaluation**

These projects will monitor and/or evaluate existing BIS policies. This research is key to understanding how policies are being delivered and what impact they are having in the UK. This research will therefore heavily influence future policy design.

**Reviews of Evidence**

These research projects are key to understanding what evidence already exists on a policy area, whether that be from international comparisons or domestic research undertaken outside the public sector.

# Priority Research Areas for 2012-13

## **i) To make the UK the best place in Europe to start, finance and grow a business**

### **Policy development**

#### **Sector Competitiveness Analyses**

This research will consist of a series of economic analyses to support sector strategies. This aims to examine the factors driving competitiveness in sectors and to identify barriers and market failures affecting performance in key sectors. This work will provide a robust economic underpinning to drive the policy conclusions of the planned sector strategies. This work is expected to combine internal and external resource.

#### **Economic evidence to inform nuclear new build policy**

The aim of this work is to provide a robust economic evidence base to underpin the development of BIS and DECC's Nuclear Supply Chain Action Plan. The research will provide evidence that will aid a holistic assessment of how policies aimed at increasing UK economic activity in the supply chain for a nuclear new build in the UK may contribute towards the growth of the UK civil nuclear sector, impact on the cost of nuclear new builds and contribute towards UK growth in general. In doing so, this analysis aims to understand the barriers and market failures present in the UK supply chain. This analysis will be undertaken by Oxford Economics with support from BIS internal resource.

#### **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) policy reform**

The research will support the ministerial commitment under the environment theme of the Red Tape Challenge process to introduce changes to the UK WEEE system. It will include an options appraisal for the redesign of the implementation of the WEEE system with the main policy objective being to reduce costs to producers whilst ensuring that stringent new targets placed on the UK by a revised WEEE Directive are achievable. This work will involve external and internal resource, with much of the analysis aiming to input in to public consultation documents for publication in 2013.

#### **English Business Survey**

The English Business Survey provides Ministers and officials with information about the current economic and business conditions across England. The survey provides qualitative information across a range of important variables (e.g. output, capacity, employment, vacancies, prices, investment), compared with three months ago and expectations for three months ahead. By providing timely and robust information on a regular and geographically detailed basis,

the survey will enhance officials' understanding of business perceptions throughout England and ultimately improve policy making.

### **Small Business Survey (SBS) 2012**

The key objectives of the SBS 2012 are to: (i) monitor key enterprise indicators and how these have changed in comparison to previous surveys; including measures of business performance and ambitions. (ii) identify and measure the factors that affect business performance, (iii) gauge small businesses' intentions, needs, concerns and the obstacles to them fulfilling their potential.

### **Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2012**

BIS will part sponsor GEM UK (which is conducted by Aston University) so that we can obtain a larger UK sample. GEM is a widely used source of data on key aspects of enterprise culture and GEM data allows analysis of UK trends and international comparisons.

### **Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Barometers**

These barometers will provide up to date information on SME performance and the key factors affecting this. The current survey will add to trend data spanning previous four years.

### **Graduate recruitment to SMEs**

There is an increasing body of evidence that under-developed management skills and capacities are one of the most important constraints on SME performance and growth. There is also good evidence that graduates can bring desirable skills to the workplace. However, graduate recruitment into SMEs is proportionately low given the scale and net contribution of the SME private sector. There is also evidence that suggests there are market failures on both sides of the market. This project has the following objectives: (i) To develop evidence based rationale for policy development in this area. This must include evidence of market failures. (ii) To identify and assess a range of policy options which could be used to encourage and enable higher levels of graduate recruitment to SMEs. (iii) To identify and assess the key risks and challenges associated with development policy in this area.

### **Specific Barriers to Growth in Very Small Businesses**

This research will substantiate our evidence base on the factors that affect the performance and growth of very small businesses, i.e. those with 0 to 9 employees. Although we have a good understanding of the barriers to growth in SMEs more generally, our understanding of the specific issues facing very small businesses and their motivations and capacity to deal with them is less substantial. In order to achieve its aims, this project will: (i) Identify the specific obstacles to growth that affect very small businesses and consider how their effects differ to those faced by larger businesses, in particular those in the 10-49 group, (ii) Assess why these obstacles are particularly problematic for very small businesses, (iii) Assess the extent to which the burdens associated with obstacles are based on misperceptions or misinformation, explaining reasons why the burdens identified are commonly exaggerated, (iv) Assess the rationale for policy development in this area, (v) Identify and assess specific

policy options that might be used to encourage and enable very small businesses to achieve higher levels of growth.

### **European structural funds A**

In future rounds of the EU Structural Funds programme allocation member states will need to be able to demonstrate a clearer link between an areas strengths, opportunities and synergies to the wider investment strategy of the Structural Fund.

### **European structural funds B**

This is an ex-ante appraisal of the decisions being taken in the Partnership Agreement to set out a business case for how the UK Common Strategic Framework Funds 2014-20 will be spent.

### **SME Access to Finance (A2F) customer journey**

This research will assess the journey businesses take when considering the need to apply for finance, the stages they go through in obtaining this finance, and the sources of information they use, as well considering factors that affect business awareness of Government access to finance schemes. 1,000 telephone surveys and 30 follow up interviews will be undertaken with SMEs to provide evidence on how Government access to finance schemes can be better designed and promoted to maximise uptake.

### **Workplace Employment Relations study**

The aims of the Workplace Employment Relations Study (WERS) are to: i) map workplace employment relations in Britain and changes over time; ii) inform employment relations policy development, and stimulate and inform debate and practice; and iii) provide a comprehensive and statistically reliable dataset on British workplace employment relations, which is made publicly available and easily accessible. The methodology will consist of a national quantitative survey.

### **Segmentation Analysis of Business Perceptions to Regulation**

Whilst previous research has looked at business perceptions, this segmentation analysis represents a new approach, in terms of identifying the typology of various groups of businesses according to their perceptions of regulation. The research represents an exhaustive analysis of characteristics of businesses with varying views on regulation. Current research simply takes specific business groups and looks at their average perceptions of regulation, therefore somewhat limiting the scope and value of this work. The results from this analysis will directly feed in to the Better Regulation Executive's strategy.

### **Links between Business Perceptions and Good Enforcement**

This research will analyse the combination of business perceptions of regulation and good enforcement. The research will contribute towards an evidence base that focuses on the way in which legislation is enforced and how this impacts on perceptions of regulatory burden. The research has the potential to highlight particular areas of regulatory enforcement, or behaviours

of regulators, that are contributing to negative business perceptions. The overall aim is to rank regulators, or areas of regulatory compliance/enforcement, according to criteria that are believed to represent good enforcement. The results from this will then be correlated against business perceptions of regulation. The project aims to draw on two existing data sets – the NAO business perceptions survey and the Focus on Enforcement (FoE) data on regulators. A new data set will also be created by gathering information on internal views of the various regulators.

### **Short Term Credit Research**

Given the rapid growth of the payday loan sector we are undertaking research into short-term credit. This research will aim to understand developments in this sector and explore the positives and negatives of an interest rate cap, as has been proposed by some stakeholders. This is an important piece of work involving a consumer and business survey which will provide new data and context on a rapidly changing market about which there is little up to date data.

### **YouGov Debt Track**

Consumer indebtedness is a key Government policy and is of great importance to households. This research will monitor consumer credit use and indebtedness to inform debt advice and the Government's policy response.

### **Consumer Bill of Rights research**

This research project will look at the benefits of simplified consumer rights. This research is currently at consultation stage.

### **Midata research**

Midata is consumers' transaction data that business collects when consumers make purchases. We will undertake research into how this data could be harnessed to support consumer empowerment and help consumers improve their consumption patterns. An existing voluntary example is in energy retail where firms will provide consumers with their midata to help them compare tariffs and improve energy use.

### **Business practices and consumer rights**

There is a fair body of research into consumer experiences of asserting their rights but less detail that describes the costs to business of complying with consumer rights legislation. The aim of this research project is to collect more detailed data about the actions businesses carry out in order to comply with current consumer rights legislation and how much these cost. This will help us develop a more robust evidence base against which we can assess the potential impacts of proposals to simplify and clarify consumer rights that will feed into the Consumer Bill of Rights. The research will take the form of a survey of 1000 retailers supplying goods, services or digital content to consumers followed by in-depth costs analysis of 80 retailers. Within digital content, it would be particularly useful to break down the data between games, music and other software. Within services the main breakdown is between services to goods (construction, installation, repair type services) and professional services.

### **Research related to the Hargreaves Review**

This is a range of research projects developed during the development of the Hargreaves Review through to an implementation programme to refine policy proposals including:

- Analysis of orphan works regimes in other countries and examination of UK creative industry behaviour, to help develop policy to unfreeze abandoned copyright works for productive use.
- Examination of collecting society codes of conduct, as part of the process of developing extended collective licensing, of copyright works to improve the efficiency of copyright markets for new business models.
- Parody and Pastiche – analysis of legal frameworks for parody use of copyright material and the economic and social use of parody in different digital settings, to aid decisions on design of a parody exception to UK copyright law, and develop benchmarks for the economic effects of liberalising re-use of material for parody.
- Design right legal framework – legal and business behavioural analysis to aid understanding of technology and user needs, and support the update of design right regulation in the UK for digital markets.
- Patent Thickets analysis to identify the potential effects of complex concentrations of patent rights on entry to technology markets by new businesses, and extent to which they impact competitive behaviour.

### **Patent Backlog and Grace Period**

This project will consist of Patent Backlog and Grace Period work with United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to improve the operation of the patent system, avoid undue delays to patent granting which may impede the financing and commercialisation of new inventions (so far this work has helped to identify strengths of the UK system which can be exploited).

### **Legal Rules for the Unitary Patent**

Patent litigation analysis across key European markets to aid definition of the legal rules for the Unitary Patent. This has identified key strengths in the UK system to weed out unjustified patents and resist anticompetitive ‘hold up’ behaviour by patent trolls which must be retained in a new EU patent system. This is a project from the 2011/12 programme and is close to publication.

### **Understanding the Collective Bundle of IPRs in Businesses**

Research will help understand the relationships between different types of IPR use by businesses, which will help the Intellectual Property Office to develop its services to firms which use patents, trademarks and designs in their Intellectual Property strategies for competitiveness. This is a project from the 2011/12 programme and is close to publication.

### **Strategic and Cross-cutting Research**

#### **Banks' approval processes**

The aim of this research is to statistically assess the extent to which banks have tightened credit availability, fees, margins and collateral requirements compared to before the credit crunch.

### **Behavioural economics**

There is a clear recognition that applying insights from behavioural economics could have profound benefits for the Enterprise Directorate in BIS. For example, by allowing us to influence business behaviours (e.g. in relation to support use and A2F) and to encourage and support growth more efficiently and effectively.

### **Economic shocks**

With the potential for an increase in the number of economic shocks impacting particular locations in the UK and given the range of Government responses to previous economic shocks, it is important that we have a systematic review and understanding of these interventions.

### **UK strengths in sectors and technologies**

This research will identify and locate key sector companies and centres of excellence in UK at NUTS 2 level and BIS-Local area. This information will provide material for planning for economic shocks and opportunities, and to support the creation of bottom-up local strategies for Structural Funds by local actors should they become a precondition of UK funding from the European Commission.

### **Enterprise research centre**

BIS will provide part funding of the Centre which will undertake research to develop our theoretical and empirical understanding of the factors affecting business investment, performance and growth. Building on this the Centre will examine policy mechanisms for increasing investment and growth through behavioural change, regulatory or supportive policy tools, whilst putting the findings in an international context.

### **Spatial Economic Research Centre**

BIS will provide part funding of the Centre which undertakes research in: the Scale and Nature of UK Spatial Disparities, the Causes of Spatial Disparities, housing and Land Market, the Structure and Evolution of the Spatial Economy, Spatial Economic Policy and Governance and other Spatial Economics Related Research included specific studies requested by BIS.

### **Big Science and Innovation**

This project is envisaged as a detailed scoping project on the relationships between large-scale science facilities and innovation performance. As such, it has three main aims:

- To overview the extent, scale and trends in capital investment in science facilities in the UK.
- To survey conceptual approaches, literature, evidence and examples of the direct and indirect impacts of 'big science' facilities, infrastructures and activities on innovation patterns and outcomes.
- To explore and analyse possible future research directions for conceptualising and mapping the roles of science investment in innovation and growth.

This project aims to provide (a) an overview of capital funding for science in the UK, (b) a critical analysis of existing conceptual approaches and empirical research on science facilities and innovation, (c) an overview of relevant case studies with discussion of significance and impact, (d) an analysis of potential directions of research in this area in the future, looking forward at both relevant research issues and questions and possible methodologies.

### **Highly Innovative Firms**

This project aims to provide information on the characteristics of highly innovative firms in the UK. It will explore the industrial distribution, collaborative performance and growth performance of such firms. This data is intended to provide background for the design and implementation of innovation and growth policies for SMEs and for an understanding of their regional impacts.

The specific aim of this project is to analyse the characteristics of these highly innovative firms within the 2011 UKIS data set, exploring the following broad research questions:

1. Are highly innovative firms also high growth firms, in terms of output, employment and productivity?
2. Do highly innovative firms collaborate more closely with science institutions, especially universities and publicly-supported research establishments? What are the sectoral and regional patterns of such collaboration? What firm characteristics are associated with such collaboration?
3. How do highly-innovative firms respond to recessionary environments in terms of innovation investments?

### **Interactions between capital funding and other resources in Higher Education Institutes**

This study aims to assess the effectiveness of un-hypothecated public funds for buildings and equipment channelled through the Funding Councils and the Research Councils to fund facilities that would ultimately be owned and managed by Higher Education Institutes (for example HEFCE research capital funding and capital funding embedded in research grants). Explicit consideration will be given to how the public supply of capital funds for research interact with other resources needed to perform research functions in Higher Education Institutes (HEIs).

The study will provide a mapping of the current distribution of research capital funds and how recent changes in the level and allocation of these funds may impact on that distribution. A particular focus on whether research capital leads or follows the effectiveness of other resources will be required together with an early assessment of impacts on research performance, recruitment and retention and investment leveraging. The methodology will span three elements: desk research, analysis of secondary data regarding funding structures for HEIs and an international comparison of research funding structures in a selection of countries.

### **Further analysis of the Innovation Survey**

Innovation is a key driver of growth yet is characterised by a range of market failures which can result in sub-optimal investment and collaboration. The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) delivers a range of support for businesses wanting to engage in innovative activities in order to help overcome these failures.

The Community Innovation Survey (CIS), and in particular the UK element of this, provides a range of information about innovation in firms every two years. The first findings of the latest wave of this survey, CIS7, which covers innovation activity from 2008 to 2010, were released this year.

In order to better develop, target and deliver innovation support for businesses, BIS seeks to gain a deeper understanding of the new information this wave brings, particularly focusing on the main BIS policy interests and the information arising from new or adapted questions from the CIS7 questionnaire. There are also panel data available covering 912 firms from the last four waves of the survey, starting in 2002, which can be utilised to provide further information about changing behaviours. BIS would be particularly interested in gaining a better understanding of the impact of the recession on innovation behaviours. There is a much larger sample available when just looking at the last two waves of the survey.

### **Considering the potential to introduce market mechanisms in BIS policy**

The objective of this piece of work is to consider where there is potential for greater use of market mechanisms across the four main areas of BIS spending - higher education, skills, research and support for innovation.

### **Impact Assessment Survey**

This project is a qualitative survey that aims to gather feedback from across government departments about the Impact Assessment process. Impact Assessments are required for all government regulation and the survey will aim to look in-depth at the issues and experiences that government departments have faced producing these documents. This evaluation of the Impact Assessment process will allow the Better Regulation Executive to identify lessons learnt and areas for improvement in the future.

### **Developing robust measures of deadweight**

This analysis of additionality in apprenticeships is currently underway. This is in the form of a 'comparison group study' – comparing the training which occurs in employers who do and do not engage in the publicly-funded apprenticeship programme, and will fit into the overarching proposal to improve our measures of deadweight in Further Education and Skills provision. The aim of this project is to scope out possible approaches to improve previous estimates of additionality in apprenticeships and work-based learning. This will involve a theoretical and empirical consideration of the most appropriate comparison group, a consideration of new data sources which have become available, and what further data is required to supplement this.

This project will be undertaken externally by Cambridge Econometrics and the report will be published on the BIS website.

### **Understanding Patent Incentives**

This research will assess the effectiveness of the UK patent system as an incentive to R&D and innovation, and compare these results with the US regime (results suggest that incentives are effective in traditional patenting sectors, but SMEs face more difficulties in realising the benefits). This is a project from the 2011/12 programme and is close to publication.

### **Innovation without Patents**

This research will try to understand the ways in which the majority of innovating firms (which don't use patents) use alternative mechanisms to appropriate IP and the consequences for productivity and growth of their choices. This will help the Intellectual Property Office to understand better where to target its outreach and education work on IP. This is a project from the 2011/12 programme and is close to publication.

### **Policy and Programme Monitoring and Evaluation**

#### **Baseline Study of Technology Strategy Board's Catapult Centres**

This project aims to provide a baseline for each of the seven key sectors covered by the Catapult programme and to establish a unified methodology to assess progress in those sectors in the future. This will be achieved through an assessment of the current size and composition of the relevant business sectors targeted by its proposed network of Catapult centres and the development of a methodology to track the development of these sectors over the lifetime of the centres – which is expected to be 10 years.

#### **Survey of Employment Tribunal Applications**

This research will consist of a telephone survey of 2000 employment tribunal applicants (individuals) and 1500 - 2000 respondents (employers). It will be the latest edition of a series of surveys which started in 1987. It will provide robust benchmark evidence on the characteristics of claimants and respondents, the costs of going to employment tribunal, private settlements, the employment tribunal claim process and ACAS conciliation.

#### **Evaluation of AMS interventions:**

This is intended to be a combination of internal and external work to evaluate key areas of AMS interventions. The aim will be to assess the ex-post effectiveness of policies in order to inform future policy making.

#### **Interim assessment New Business Universal Offer**

This research will be undertaken to understand the use and impact of the universal business support offer introduced through the business improvement programme. Research covers bl.gov (in particular MNB and GIS) and Mentorsme.

### **Migration to Government Digital Service**

BIS will collect SME and stakeholder views on Business Link content and .GOV. From 17 October, GOV.UK will replace Directgov and Business Link and will be the best place to find government services and information.

### **Get Mentoring**

Research and evaluation of the Get Mentoring programme. This will be undertaken in order to understand the use and impact of the training provided by the programme.

### **Get Mentoring behavioural economics**

This research will explore applying behavioural insights to increase the numbers of volunteers that complete mentor training and register with IOEE and thereby becoming part of national mentoring network. Random Control Trial results will provide evidence of how best to motivate volunteers.

### **Business in You Evaluation**

This evaluation will aid our understanding of the impact of the “Business in You” campaign. This will be done through a survey of SMEs and nascent entrepreneurs to track awareness of campaign, views on campaign material and impacts on business.

### **Entrepreneurial Institutions**

The Enterprise Directorate (EEDA) in BIS has invested in a programme to set-up new Entrepreneurial Institutions. Research is being conducted to evaluate the early progress of these and EEDA is helping to develop the research instruments that will be used.

### **Growth Accelerator**

This research will consist of a series of customer surveys to provide data to assess performance against key performance indicators as well as more general formative and summative evaluation of the Growth Accelerator programme.

### **TSB Spillovers**

Economic theory and empirical research have shown that investment in innovation activities by a firm can lead to benefits flowing to that firm’s customers, suppliers and competitors, as well as to firms in other sectors, regions or countries. These spillover benefits lead to private firms investing at a sub-optimal level from the perspective of wider society, and form a key part of the rationale behind public support for innovation.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) seeks to further its understanding of the size and range of spillover effects emanating from its support for technological innovation, especially those programmes delivered by the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), and to establish methods for capturing these spillovers in future evaluations of support programmes.

The aim of this research is to provide:

- An update to the literature review covering any advances in the years since it was published.
- A framework which could be used in future evaluations of innovation support programmes to capture and, where possible, quantify these spillover impacts.

### **An evaluation framework for the impacts of the Data Strategy Board**

This research aims to produce an evaluation framework to assess the impact of the Data Strategy Board (DSB). The evaluation framework will specify a methodology for the collection, monitoring and analysis of up-to-date evidence on the impact of the work been carried out by the DSB. The framework will allow for the measurement 'success' as defined by the extent to which DSB's four objectives are delivered (delivering open data; meeting the public need on weather and mapping; making access to data easier and increasing public access to free data); as well as achieving the Department's wider economic aims of creating a positive business environment and promoting economic growth. The research will look at the appropriate statistical and econometric techniques to be used, and take into account any feasibility issues in data collection. The research will address the current lack of evidence with respect to the impact of improving access to public data; thereby allowing DSB to allocate resources appropriately, to make informed decisions and to evaluate its work.

### **Mediation evaluation**

BIS is seeking to improve the evidence base on the benefits that mediation can bring to businesses.

### **The fourth Work-Life Balance employers survey (WLB4 2012-13)**

This research project will consist of a telephone survey of 1500 employers. This will be the fourth in a series of surveys dating back to 2000 when the first work-life balance survey was conducted. The survey will provide vital and robust evidence necessary to evaluate the Government's initiatives on the work-life balance framework since the previous survey in 2007 (WLB3 Employers). These include the extension of the 'right to request' to parents of children under the age of 17 (2009), to co-resident carers (2007) and the introduction of Additional Paternity Leave implemented from April 2011<sup>1</sup>. WLB4 will also provide a new benchmark from which to monitor and then evaluate anticipated legislative initiatives in this area, including the planned extension to the 'right to request' flexible working, a new system of shared parental leave and changes to maternity and paternity leave and unpaid parental leave.

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<sup>1</sup> Additional Paternity Leave and Pay (APL&P) will enable eligible fathers to take up to 26 weeks' additional paternity leave (currently fathers are entitled to 2 weeks' statutory paternity leave). The new right will only apply in respect of babies due (or children placed for adoption) on or after 3 April 2011.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation of the Growth Review**

The first phase of the Growth Review was published alongside the Budget 2011, with the second phase following as part of the Autumn Statement 2011. It is still too early for most of the policy measures to be generating any outcomes or impacts, so progress reporting has so far focused on the activities associated with implementing the measures. The research will aim to establish the framework (list of indicators and other bespoke pieces of forthcoming evaluation evidence) that can be used in future to monitor and evaluate the Growth Review, and provide an independent assessment of the progress made to date on implementing the Growth Review, the outputs already generated and case studies.

### **Review of Alternatives to Regulation: New rights for credit and store card users**

This research project will consist of an in-depth case study of an alternative to regulation, that is the code of practice introduced in 2010 to protect users of credit and store cards. The project will contribute significantly to the evidence base on alternatives to regulation, exploring if this alternative met its objectives and identifying any lessons that should be considered when designing future non-regulatory interventions.

### **Employer responses to migration policy changes**

The purpose of this research is to identify the ways in which employers have responded to changes in access to non-European Economic Area migrant labour from Tiers 1 and 2 of the Points Based System. Data will be gathered through qualitative interviews with around twenty employers who have recruited migrant workers in recent years. The employer sample will be composed of employers across a range of sectors and of varying sizes.

### **Evaluation of Apprenticeship Grants to Employers (AGE): SME incentives pilot**

This project is the evaluation of the policy to give small and medium sized businesses a £1,500 incentive to take on an Apprentice. The project seeks to measure whether the incentive has encouraged employers to take on an Apprentice they otherwise would not have. It investigates the impact AGE has had on Apprentice starts and the opinions of employers on how the incentive influenced their decision making. The work was contracted to BMG Research.

### **Evaluation of Strategic Investment Fund**

The Strategic Investment Fund ended investments in March 2011. This interim evaluation aims to follow-up the assisted projects to assess subsequent outputs and impacts and give an interim assessment of the costs and benefits of the additional funding.

### **Evaluation of Lambert Agreements**

This project will consist of an evaluation of the “Lambert Agreements” which were developed ten years ago to aid university – industry collaboration, and make it easier for SMEs to work both with universities and larger firms. The framework was set up ten years ago; although it is recognised to have

contributed to exploitation of university research, research methods and the markets for technology have changed significantly. The research will assess impact to date and identify changes needed.

### **Reviews of Evidence**

#### **An International Comparison of Energy and Climate Change Policies Impacting Energy Intensive Industries in Selected Countries**

This report estimates the relative electricity prices within the UK compared to international competitor countries, and the degree to which countries' domestic energy and climate change policies contribute to those prices. This research shows that the UK policies could have a greater impact on electricity prices in 2020 than in any other G8 country. This research was undertaken by ICF.

#### **Follow-on research from the Equality and Diversity business case**

The department commissioned research into the business case for Equality and Diversity jointly with the Government Equalities Office in 2011. This follow-on research will further examine the conditions under which there are business benefits from the Equality and Diversity business case. This research will be based on a literature survey of existing case studies of the impact of equality and diversity policies in business, identifying impacts and success factors. The objective of the research is to examine the business impacts and investigate how these may depend on context and the extent to which company equality and diversity policies are designed to extract business benefits.

#### **Consumer Rights and Economic Growth**

This research will explore the links between consumer rights, consumer choices and economic growth. The study will consist of a literature review with case studies.

#### **Consumer detriment methodology**

The consumer and competition landscape reforms, and the National Audit Office report on protecting consumers, have emphasised the need for central government to work better with local Trading Standards and Citizens Advice to prioritise important consumer protection cases. This requires a common understanding of consumer detriment so the different organisations can discuss cases effectively and then take action on the cases of greatest importance to consumers. We plan to undertake a literature review of existing consumer detriment methodology and design a new tool kit to help Trading Standards, Citizens Advice and the Competition Markets Authority prioritise cases.

## **ii) To create a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe**

### **Policy development**

#### **Student Income & Expenditure Survey (SIES) 2011/12 (Joint with Welsh Assembly Government)**

This research will consist of an update of SIES 2007/08. This will provide a baseline for changes to tuition fees and student support which will be introduced in September 2012. The study involves an electronic and telephone survey and diary exercise of current students. This represents a major change in methodology from previous surveys which used face to face interviewing and paper-based diaries.

#### **Understanding student demand for postgraduate study**

This study aims to understand how student demand for postgraduate study has changed since 2003. In particular it will attempt to assess what has been the impact of the introduction of variable fees and changes to student support introduced in Sept 2006. Results of the study will be used to inform the assessment of the likely impact of the 2012 rise in tuition fees. Since information on applications for postgraduate study are not held centrally, the first stage of the study will involve establishing what information different Higher Education Institutes hold before progressing to more detailed information gathering and analysis.

#### **Private Providers of Higher Education**

The recent Higher Education White Paper envisaged an increased role for alternative providers of higher education. Currently, there is no comprehensive information on the scale, scope and outcomes of private higher education provision. This research aims to address this. The key stages of the study involve:

- Construction of a robust comprehensive list of private providers in the UK.
- Survey of existing providers to update and extend HESA 2011 study – to include student numbers (levels, mode, courses, fees, domicile).
- Student survey to understand who studies in private Higher Education and their financial arrangements, motivation, experiences and outcomes.

#### **Understanding Higher Education provision in Further Education Colleges**

The recent higher education White Paper envisaged an increased role for further education Colleges in providing Higher Education level study. This study will investigate the delivery of higher education in further education Colleges, involving survey and case study work with students, further education and higher education institutions and employers. The results of the

study will inform policy about the future organisation and role that further education can be expected to play in future higher education provision.

### **Graduate Premium – further analyses**

The study will examine what further disaggregation of graduate premium, returns, earnings, etc. are possible in order to understand:

- ‘Long-term’ trends in returns to higher education qualifications;
- Differences in returns by institution, subject, types of student, and other factors

The study will involve econometric analyses of a variety of sources of information on students and graduates including HESA data, LFS, BHPS, DLHE and Longitudinal DLHE. The results of the study will provide important information to assess the value of higher education and to inform policy on public support for students and institutions. It may also provide valuable information on the impact of higher education on social mobility.

### **UK student outward mobility**

There is an increased interest in UK students spending some time studying abroad. However, currently there is not a comprehensive source of data on the amount and pattern of study of UK students studying overseas (beyond ERASMUS data), nor robust evidence about the benefits or barriers to study. The first strand of this study will be to establish the current level of mobility and also to assess the feasibility of gathering this data on a regular basis.

Subsequent strands may involve:

- assessing the public and individual benefits of UK students studying abroad
- understanding the individual and institutional barriers to UK students studying abroad.

### **Impact of Higher Education capital spending**

This study will aim to explore the impact of teaching and learning capital expenditure on the achievements of Higher Education institutions. It is currently envisaged that a detailed quantitative analysis will be undertaken to examine the impact of the expenditure on a range of success measures, taking into account an appropriate counterfactual.

### **Futuretrack – Part-time Students (joint with HECSU)**

This longitudinal study is exploring the experience and outcomes for students and their employers of studying part-time for Higher Education qualifications. The study involves tracking two cohorts of students in their first and final years of part-time study and a linked study of their employers. The aim of the study is to provide a clearer understanding of the benefits of part-time study, particularly in relation to full-time study. The results of the work will inform policy around the future funding and delivery of part-time Higher Education.

## **Employment regulation, business behaviour and perceptions**

### Strand A

This research aims to explore the perceptions about, and impact of, employment regulation on businesses. In particular this research will explore: 1) to what extent are employer's current working practices influenced by regulation and what impact does this have on business growth and / or HR capacity, 2) employer perceptions about employment regulation and whether there is a perception / reality gap, 3) employer views about the value of employment regulation information.

### Strand B

This research aims to explore the perceptions of maternity and paternity leave and flexible working arrangements. In particular this research will explore: 1) how employers deal with, and accommodate, requests for maternity and paternity leave and flexible working, 2) employers' experience of flexible working and its impact on the business, 3) employers response to the proposed changes in maternity and paternity leave and the extension of the right to request flexible working to all employees.

The methodology for each of these strands will mainly consist of qualitative interviews.

### **Impact of skills strategy and constituent elements - 2013 update**

This work draws together existing data and research to assess the success of the skills strategy in delivering against its key aims, building on a similar exercise carried out in 2012. It aims to draw together quantitative and qualitative evidence of progress and highlight successes and areas where further work is required. The work will be carried out externally to ensure objectivity and results will be published on the BIS website.

### **Further Education loans research to assess awareness, behaviours of learners/providers**

This research will track the levels of awareness and understanding of 24+ Advanced Learning Loans amongst future learners, current providers and Apprenticeship employers. The research will be carried out by an external agency and results will be published on the BIS website.

### **24+ Advanced Learning Loans research on learner support and barriers to engagement**

Further qualitative research is being carried out amongst specific groups to understand their motivations for learning, expectation of benefits and attitudes to loans. This research will focus on those over 40, people with a disability, those of Muslim faith and those seeking an Advanced or Higher Apprenticeship. The research will be carried out by an external agency and results will be published on the BIS website.

### **Prior qualifications: indicators of progression and social mobility**

The prior qualifications survey asks students undertaking government funded training at L2 and L3 what their highest prior qualification was. The aim of this work is to provide a reliable estimate of the extent to which government funding is increasing the qualification levels of the population. The work is carried out externally to ensure objectivity and results are published on the BIS website.

### **Are there gaps in the careers guidance market?**

This project will review existing evidence to assess careers guidance provision. The aim is to assess the current careers guidance market and whether there are fundamental gaps in provision. It will be carried out by an external agency and the findings published on the BIS website.

### **Adult career decision making and learners' assessment of course outcomes**

This qualitative project will aim to explore the short and long-term career goals of National Careers Service customers to identify what type of information and information sources adults use to inform their career decisions. The research will be externally commissioned and its findings published on the BIS website.

### **Multinational Employer Perceptions Survey**

This is a survey of multinational employers to find out their relative perception of skills in the UK. The survey will focus on issues such as perceived strengths, weaknesses and direction of travel of the UK workforce's skills and productivity levels; and ratings of the UK workforce overall and in relation to specific attributes, relative to best performing competitors. It builds on previous internal research commissioned by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). The work will be carried out by independent researchers, and the final report will be published as part of the BIS research series, on the publication pages of the BIS website.

### **Understanding Training Levies (UKCES)**

This project, commissioned by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) and undertaken by Professor Howard Gospel (UKCES research fellow), developed a deeper understanding of training levies in the UK, including the mandatory levies in the construction and engineering and construction industries and the voluntary levy in the UK film industry. Through qualitative research, including interviews conducted with employers, levy operators and other stakeholders, the research explored the characteristics and impacts of current levies. The report was published by the UKCES in July 2012.

### **Population wide education dataset - second phase**

This project will involve the conversion of the initial proof of concept into a full prototype analysis database. This will support development of analyses to understand progression in learning.

## **Strategic and Cross-cutting Research**

### **Further development of the evidence base on wider learning benefits**

This research aims to build on the review of Wider Benefits undertaken in 2012 through the development of new and innovative pilots. This work will be assessed after the final outputs from the review are received.

### **Management and Leadership**

There is an ongoing interest in management skills and leadership capabilities which are widely recognised as a key barrier to improved SME performance and growth. The evidence gap relates to how policy can encourage and enable improved skills and capacities. For example, what are the barriers to upskilling? How can we help improve capabilities? How can we build capacity? What tools might help and can we help develop/access those tools? Within this there is a specific interest in improving our understanding of management capacities and uses of external advice in relation to accessing finance.

### **Value of international students to UK**

The Department has previously commissioned research to estimate the direct financial impact of international students studying in the UK, primarily through income from tuition fees and other spending while studying. However, it is recognised that international students have other substantial longer-term impacts on the UK. This study aims to assess elements of these impacts, including:

- impacts on Higher Education Institutes and UK students;
- subsequent employment and future engagement with UK;
- 'soft power' impacts;
- social costs;
- impacts on the labour market of work during study.

The study will involve a literature review, follow-up survey of international students at least 5 years after graduating, and questions on an existing survey of international students.

### **Longitudinal Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (LDLHE)**

This research will track the destinations of 2008-09 Higher Education leavers after 3½ years. This project will be jointly funded with HEFCE and the Devolved Administrations and Funding Councils.

This will be the third LDLHE and will provide a picture of the destinations of those who graduated into the most severe phase of the recent recession. It will be a key source of data on labour market outcomes and earnings information which will underpin and update calculation on the benefits and returns to Higher Education.

### **Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC)**

This funding will allow the linking of ILR and HESA data to ALSPAC survey records. The data set provides an important resource for longitudinal analysis to explore factors affecting Higher Education participation, experience of Higher Education and longer term outcomes.

### **UK-wide Apprenticeship Pay Survey 2012**

This survey of England, Wales and Northern Ireland investigates the levels of pay being earned by Apprentices and their contractual status with their employers. Analysis will consider differences by industrial sector. As there is not full UK coverage, comparisons across the UK will not be possible, but will be across the participating countries. Ipsos-Mori have been contracted to undertake this project.

### **Wider economic benefits (spillovers) of skills**

This project is to review the research published in the last year on the returns to qualifications using cross-sectional and matched longitudinal data, to assess the strengths and weaknesses of each approach, and to advise on how each type of research can be used to enhance our understanding of the labour market benefits of gaining skills and qualifications.

The work is being carried out by independent researchers, and the final report will be published as part of the BIS research series, on the publication pages of the BIS website.

### **Employer Perspectives Survey (UKCES)**

This survey aims to develop our understanding of employers' perceptions of Government policy and support and has been contracted to IFF who are due to report December 2012 or January 2013.

### **UKCES Employer Skills Survey**

The UK Commission for Employment and Skills' Employer Skills Survey 2011 is the key UK data source on employer demand for and investment in skills. It is the first UK-wide employer skills survey, based on interviews with over 87,500 employers across all sectors and sizes of employer. The survey covers topics such as skills-related recruitment difficulties, skills gaps, training investment and the work-readiness of education leavers. The research was undertaken by IFF research on behalf of the UK Commission. A series of reports on the results have been published on the UKCES website and the next survey is due to take place in 2013.

### **International comparisons of adult skills (PIAAC)**

OECD's Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) will directly measure the key cognitive skills of at least 5,000 adults in each of 23 OECD countries. As well as testing literacy, numeracy and ICT literacy, information will be collected on the use of key work skills, educational attainment and participation in the labour market. Some analysis of change over time will be possible for countries which participated in either the International Adult Literacy Survey (including the UK in 1996) and/or the Adult Literacy and Life skills Survey. OECD will publish international results in

October 2013, when BIS will also publish national reports covering England and Northern Ireland.

### **Annual Population Survey**

This work supports ONS' annual boost to the Labour Force Survey, to enable production of sub-national labour market estimates.

### **International comparisons of employer investment in training - EU continuous vocational training survey CVTS4**

CVTS4 is the fourth European Continuing Vocational Training Survey covering all 27 EU states as well as Norway and Turkey. The previous surveys were carried out in 1994, 1999 and 2006. It asks UK employers about the nature and extent of the vocational training that they provide, and the skills of their workforce. Interviews with around 5,500 enterprises employing 10 or more employees were carried out between September and December 2011. The UK report will be published in late 2012 with the first European results in late 2013. CVTS4 is governed by the European Parliament/Council Regulation EC 1552/2005.

### **2011 Skills for Life Survey**

In 2010, the Department commissioned a follow-up to the 2003 Skills for Life survey, with the key purpose of updating the baseline information collected about adult literacy and numeracy and setting a more functional baseline for the present level of ICT skills. The 2011 Skills for Life survey fieldwork was conducted using a stratified probability sample of adults aged 16-65 in England. Fieldwork was conducted between May 2010 and February 2011, with face-to-face interviews consisting of a socio-demographic background questionnaire and two of three computer-based skill assessments in literacy, numeracy or ICT. The headline findings report was published in December 2011 and the main findings report are due to be published later in 2012.

### **Analysis of the longer term outcomes of gaining qualifications using the matched ILR/DWP/HMRC database**

This analysis builds on last year's published report (available on the BIS website) and provides a more detailed breakdown of the findings, allowing us to look, for example, at specific types of basic skills training, and break down the headline results by sector.

The research was carried out by independent researchers for BIS and the final report will be published this year as part of the BIS research series, on the publication pages of the BIS website.

## **Policy and Programme Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **Evaluation of the impact of capital expenditure on Further Education (FE) colleges**

The aim of this project is to provide an assessment of the impact of capital spending on the economic and learner outcomes of Further Education colleges in England between April 2001 and September 2011.

The project will update the previous impact assessment of FE capital spending, which was published in 2008. An up-to-date measure of the impact of capital spending on college performance is needed to inform policy decisions about future funding profiles and provide colleges with information about the impacts of their own capital investment. BMG and Frontier Economics have been commissioned to undertake a census of FE colleges, qualitative case studies and econometric analysis of quantitative impact indicators. The project report will be published on the BIS website.

#### **Evaluation of changed arrangements for prison education**

There has been a significant change to the education which is on offer within the prison system. It will be necessary to evaluate the impact of education activities undertaken by prisoners and how this supports them into work on their release. This project is an initial feasibility and scoping study to explore how best to access this population and evaluate such impacts.

#### **UKBA Tier 4 (student immigration) and Further Education evaluation**

This study focuses on the value of Tier 4 international students to publicly-funded Further Education (FE) colleges in the UK. Existing data sources on international students studying in FE colleges in the UK do not provide current figures on the levels of participation or income generated by Tier 4 students in FE colleges. This project aims to meet this evidence gap through collecting high-level participation and income data from FE colleges which have a licence to be a sponsor of Tier 4 students to identify levels of student applications and participation. This research is being externally commissioned and the findings will be published on the BIS website.

#### **Evaluation of Enterprise Education Initiatives**

This evaluation will address identified gaps in the evidence base for enterprise education initiatives.

#### **Evaluation of leadership and management**

There is an ongoing interest in management skills and leadership capabilities and previous evaluation of the Leadership and Management programme showed significant impacts of participation in this initiative. However, the policy design has subsequently changed significantly and there is a need to understand if the revised policy is successful. This research will be commissioned externally and the findings will be published on the BIS website.

#### **Evaluation of Further Education reform programme**

This work will evaluate the impact of the Further Education reform programme on colleges and providers. The evaluation focuses on assessing the impact of the following aspects of the Reform programme: freedoms and flexibilities, funding policy changes, outward accountability, reducing bureaucracy, increasing simplification, teaching and learning and community learning. The work will be carried out externally to ensure objectivity and results will be published on the BIS website.

### **Apprenticeship ATA evaluation**

This research will evaluate the take up and impact of Apprenticeship training Associations. This work is likely to start late 2012 or early 2013 and will be carried out externally.

### **Community Learning Evaluation Survey 2011 and 2012**

This longitudinal survey of Community Learning learners seeks to measure the short and longer term impacts participation in Community Learning has for individuals, their families and wider community. It investigates whether Community Learning leads to progression into further learning, provides useful skills for the workplace and social and well being benefits to learners. The work will be undertaken by TNS-BMRB.

### **Evaluation of Community Learning Trust Pilots**

Community Learning Trust Pilots are providers that have been granted additional freedoms to plan and deliver Community Learning in response to local needs. The evaluation will investigate whether implementation of these freedoms and flexibilities lead to a better Community Learning offer, widening participation and ensuring that a greater proportion of learners from disadvantaged backgrounds are engaged. The work has been contracted to TNS-BMRB to undertake.

### **Progression Impact of Unit Funding Qualifications**

This research focuses on the learner benefits of undertaking learning delivered through units, and assesses the impact on outcomes, attitudes and future intentions. The research will be carried out by an external agency and results will be published on the BIS website.

### **Survey of unemployed learners**

This survey focuses on the impact of learning on those not in employment, and assesses the benefits on employment outcomes, wider benefits, attitudes and motivations. The research will be carried out by an external agency and results will be published on the BIS website.

### **Evaluation of Further Education Learning and follow-up survey**

The survey looks at the immediate and intermediate outcomes of learning on those studying vocational courses in Further Education. It assesses the impact on employment outcomes and wider benefits, attitudes and motivations. A follow-up survey will be used to reappraise the benefits of learning and update the impact on employment outcomes. The research will be carried out by an external agency and results will be published on the BIS website.

### **Basic Skills Evaluation**

This is a large scale evaluation of the effectiveness of Further Education based Basic Skills provision. The research will help us identify which type of delivery is most effective for which groups of people. The research has several elements including; the development/update of measurement tools, a two stage survey and skills test of a sample of current Basic Skills learners, a qualitative in depth study with learners and a feasibility study on the use of

robust evaluation methodologies (Randomised Control Trials) for reference in future evaluations in this complex policy environment. The work is being undertaken by a consortium of SQW and The National Research and Development Centre for Adult Literacy and Numeracy (NRDC).

### **Evaluation of Unionlearn and Union Learning Fund (ULF)**

Unionlearn is the learning and skills arm of the TUC which receives a grant from the department to administer the union learning fund. The primary objective of the fund is to develop the capacity of trade unions and Union Learning Representatives (ULRs) to work with employers, employees and learning providers to encourage greater take up of learning in the workplace.

This research builds on previous evaluations and focuses on the Government's interest in assessing the economic and social impact of skills escalation and the role of unionlearn and the ULF in supporting such developments

### **Effectiveness of ESF Delivery**

The aims of this project are:

1. To provide insight into the effectiveness of current ESF delivery
2. To make an assessment of how well the current arrangements could help deliver against revised priorities.
3. Develop an understanding of what are currently delivering, and by whom.
4. Develop an understanding of who and what have the potential to be involved in future in relation to BIS views on priorities in the new programme.
5. The work should add value to existing arrangements for evaluating ESF put in place by DWP.

Key questions for the project include:

- Who is currently involved in ESF project delivery and what was the process for becoming involved (previous involvement)? How easy was it to get involved?
- Who is not involved but had something to offer? Why are they not involved? (lack of info or lack of accessibility of process?)
- What is being done and how do the outcomes contribute at city level?
- Given BIS priorities for delivery, how would the current picture of delivery need to change to accommodate them? Could current partners deliver?
- Would we need to include new partners to deliver the revised priorities? If so, who and how would we reach them?
- Would new partners have the capacity for delivery?
- To what extent are structural programmes joined up? If we were going to achieve effective join up, what would this look like and how might we achieve it?
- Which agencies are best placed to co-ordinate ESF activity?

### **Evaluation of Adult English and Maths Pathfinder Pilots**

BIS and the Skills Funding Agency are establishing a series of pathfinder pilots with Colleges and Training Providers to test how skills gain in English and Maths can be assessed and measured as the basis for funding, in order to incentivise providers to deliver the greatest skills gains for their learners.

The evaluation will:

- Capture the distance travelled (skills gains) for learners in each of the pathfinders
- Evaluate a range of approaches (including the tools used) for capturing the distance travelled in order to identify the most effective approach(es) both in terms of capturing distance travelled, ensuring validity and integrity in the results, and using it as the basis for funding;
- Identify the impacts on providers and learners of capturing distance travelled during the pilots to include resources required, success rates, benefits and any unintended consequences.

We have commissioned SQW and The National Research and Development Centre for Adult Literacy and Numeracy (NRDC) to undertake the evaluation.

### **Apprenticeship Pay Survey 2011: Follow-up Research**

The apprenticeship pay survey 2011 revealed a number of findings which merited further consideration, and an understanding of the driving factors behind them, e.g., 20% of apprentices said they were paid less than the relevant National Minimum Wage, and 20% said they received neither on nor off-the-job training. This project follows up 40 apprentices in these categories from the original survey; the latest research takes the form of a face-to-face in-depth interview to better understand the nature of their apprenticeship and the pay / training they receive. This research is being carried out by Ipsos MORI.

### **Apprentice survey 2013 and the Apprentice employer survey 2013**

Both Apprenticeship surveys are expected to commence in October 2012.

This research will consist of undertaking two surveys, one of Apprentices and one of Apprentice employers in order to:

- Continue to develop our understanding of the apprenticeship programme, the value it provides for employers, individuals and the economy and how the constituent parts feed into to this.
- Measure the impact of policy changes, e.g. SASE, using the previous survey as a baseline.
- To assess perceived impact and identify areas for improvement.

The objectives of this research are to:

1. Explore the quality of apprenticeships and how this differs in different circumstances (e.g., size of employer, framework, level where possible), and how this affects outcomes
2. Understand employers and individuals rationale for choosing their training

3. To explore how the programme is accessed and used by employers and individuals
4. Understand the barriers to providing apprenticeships for employers, including bureaucracy
5. Explore the experience, satisfaction, benefits and shortcomings of apprenticeships
6. Understand trainees' progression into and through apprenticeships
7. Assess the impact of training and how changes in Apprenticeship policy and delivery affect this, including the perceived impacts of the new Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England (which, e.g., set minimum guided learning hours and other requirements for content)

Reports are likely to be published in Spring or Summer 2013.

### **Apprenticeship progression project**

The aim of the research is to provide robust and ongoing longitudinal intelligence about the progression of Advanced Level Apprentices into higher education in order to inform national and local policy

The research project aim will be delivered by meeting the following objectives:

1. Analyse the progression into higher education of five cohorts of Advanced Level Apprentices completing in the years 2005-06 to 2009-10;
2. Provide a top level trend analysis of the matched data by age showing percentages progressing into both non prescribed higher education and university;
3. Provide further levels of analysis showing trends broken down by frameworks, provider types and regional variations;
4. Undertake analysis of the data by domicile providing evidence of the impact apprenticeships are having on social mobility;
5. Illustrate the potential of the research to provide local analyses at local authority, LEP, university, college, training provider and individual framework levels;
6. Produce a report and disseminate it to BIS and more widely to NAS, SSCs, UKCES, Universities, Colleges, Training Providers, directly contracted Employers and other stakeholders;

This project will report in late autumn 2012.

### **Evaluation of National Careers Service Partnership Delivery**

This work will explore the impact of wider partnership working by the National Careers Service. The aim is to define and assess impacts of a range of partnership delivery models including Community Walk-in pathfinders. The evaluation is being carried out by CFE and the results will be published on the BIS website.

**Employment, Partnerships and Skills research - joint project with DWP**

This project explores the impact of policy changes in JCP and the skills system. The aim is to assess the effect of policy changes on how the skills and employment systems are working together on the ground. The research is being conducted by IES and the results will be published on the DWP and BIS websites.

**Analysis of Next Step customer data matched to HMRC/DWP/ILR datasets**

This analysis uses Next Step administrative data to explore immediate employment, benefit dependency and education outcomes for Next Step customers. The research is being carried out by London Economics and the results will be published on the BIS website.

**Impact of post-19 Further Education and Skills funding changes in the 2011/12 academic year, including incentives for training unemployed people**

This research focuses on the impact of changes to funding entitlements in the 2011/12 academic year, looking at unemployed people and disadvantaged groups. CFE are carrying out the research and the results will be published on the BIS website.

**Evaluation of training for young people not in employment, education or training**

This research looks at training provision designed for young people not in employment, education or training in the 2011/12 academic year. The aim is to assess the type of provision that is being delivered to this group and to understand young people's attitudes and motivation to learn in more detail. NFER are carrying out the research and the results will be published on the BIS website.

**Impact of foundation learning, LLDD and ESOL learning - learner survey**

This survey will assess the value of foundation learning and whether it is meeting its intended aims and objectives. The survey will be carried out by an external agency and the results published on the BIS website.

**International Passenger Survey - emigrant qualifications**

The primary aim of this research is to capture educational attainment data on long-term international migrants. To do this BIS have sponsored a trial question on the established ONS International Passenger Survey. If the data captured is of sufficient quality it will be used to construct predictive models of the qualifications held by emigrants and immigrants.

The fieldwork is being managed by ONS, as part of the long-standing International Passenger Survey. The modelling stage is expected to be done by BIS analysts. The first stage of the project is exploratory to assess the quality of the data and is unlikely to lead directly to publication. The extent to which results are published in future are dependent on the quality of the project outcomes. Delivery of the first set of data to BIS is expected November 2012.

### **Further Education Outcomes further analysis of matched admin data**

This research project will develop previous analyses by using matched data to evaluate outcomes of Further Education learning by comparing treatment and control groups.

### **Estimating the impact of IACL and skills for life on wellbeing**

This project uses two different approaches - both of which are advocated in HM Treasury's Green Book annex on social cost-benefit analysis - to monetise the impact of adult learning on wellbeing, with a particular focus on Community Learning and Skills for Life. Traditionally, analysis has focussed on the economic impact of learning in terms of increased lifetime earnings, but this project aims to more systematically assess broader benefits including increased life satisfaction, happiness, keeping the body and mind active, and being more confident with others, including your children. This report has been externally commissioned and will be published on the BIS website.

### **UKCES Evaluation of the Growth and Innovation Fund (GIF)**

This evaluation of Best Market Solutions within GIF will be led by UKCES. The evaluation will assess the impact in terms of skills investment and the impact on business performance and will also collate evidence from each of the individual BMS project evaluations. The formative stages of the evaluation have already informed policy development. The research will be published on the UKCES website. SFA lead on the evaluation of other strands of GIF, namely National Skills Academies and Joint Investment Programme.

### **Evaluation of employer ownership pilot**

This evaluation will explore the impact of the Employer Ownership Pilot on employers and learners as well as assessing the value for money achieved by the pilot. It will explore whether the pilot led to innovative training solutions and the impact in terms of changes to employer leadership, commitment and investment in skills. The research will be carried out by an external contractor and will be published on the BIS website.

## **Reviews of Evidence**

### **Balance of international aid spending on different stages of education**

This will be a joint study with DFID to understand the benefits of spending on different stages of education.

### **Review of evidence on wider benefits of learning**

The main aim of the research is to update our knowledge on the wider benefits of learning, with a particular emphasis on estimating/quantifying the value of those benefits to society.

The objectives of this project are:

1. To provide a brief overview and critical assessment of research on the wider impact of adult learning since 2008 and consider to what extent causality can be attributed.
2. To scope out and undertake analysis of existing datasets (e.g. BHPS / Understanding society, Cohort Studies, ELSA) to see how they might add to our knowledge on the wider impact of adult learning, focussing on health, mental health, family interactions and parenting, civic participation and cohesion.
3. Suggest proposals for further work, including further analysis of existing datasets and new data collection, to strengthen this area of evidence.

Reports will be published on the BIS Research website in autumn 2012

### **Review of the economic benefits of training and qualifications as shown by research based on cross-sectional and administrative data**

The Department has recently published two reports which shed light on the economic returns to different intermediate and low-level vocational qualifications. One undertakes econometric analysis of the Labour Force Survey – an approach which has traditionally been used in the literature for a number of years. The other uses matched administrative data (the Individualised Learner Record matched to HMRC data on earnings and DWP data on the receipt of benefits) – a new data source, which has not been used in the past. The aim of this review is to undertake a critical analysis of the two approaches, comparing and contrasting the insights they provide, including which estimates are most relevant in particular circumstances. This has been externally commissioned and will be published on the BIS website.

### **Our changing economy and the role of apprenticeships**

This think piece was published alongside the call for evidence for the Richard Review of apprenticeships and considers the role for vocational education and apprenticeships in light of the evolving macroeconomy. The report is published on the BIS website.

### **Review of the economic benefits of training and qualifications**

This project is to review the research published in the last year on the returns to qualifications using cross-sectional and matched longitudinal data, to assess the strengths and weaknesses of each approach, and to advise on how each type of research can be used to enhance our understanding of the labour market benefits of gaining skills and qualifications.

The work is being carried out by independent researchers and the final report will be published as part of the BIS research series, on the publication pages of the BIS website.

### **iii) To encourage investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy**

#### **Policy development**

##### **What stops UK firms exporting and what could influence more to do so?**

This project will fill gaps in the existing evidence on barriers to exporting by using data from new waves of business surveys: UKTI's internationalisation survey, and BIS' Small Business Survey. In addition to analysing the experience of firms across different size bands, export strategies, age and other aspects of interest this project will add a sector dimension and where possible will provide a longitudinal view of changes in experience and perception of the barriers by UKTI services users and non-users.

##### **Research into the impact of Trade Defence investigations on UK businesses**

On 28 October 2011, the European Commission announced the launch of a modernisation review of EU Trade Defence Instruments. The EU uses these instruments to counter the dumping of under-priced products on its markets, re-establish a level playing field for its businesses in the face of unfair subsidies and to provide temporary respite for EU industry in the face of sudden shifts in trade flows. As part of its preparation for this review, the EU has commissioned research covering a number of aspects of TDI. However, if the UK is to press its case for reform, it will be important to have access to independent research informed by the experience of UK businesses and focussing on the UK's priority issues.

##### **Developing a credible economic framework for assessment of Intellectual Property enforcement**

This research will develop a framework for the assessment of Intellectual Property (IP) enforcement that takes account both of the different costs and businesses issues associated with infringement of IP rights (which deter investment) and the costs of civil and criminal enforcement. This is the start of a programme with industry and the EU enforcement authorities to build a common approach.

##### **Research with the Intellectual Property Awareness Network on investment funding for IP based ventures**

This research will examine current barriers to innovation investment, and develop methods for enabling financing of Intellectual Property (IP) based innovation, using IP rights as effective collateral for funding, and building on initiatives in other financial markets.

#### **Strategic and Cross-cutting Research**

##### **Trade conference "The UK in a Global World: How to focus on steps in global value chains that really add value?"**

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and the Economic and Social Research Council

(ESRC) jointly organised a high-level conference on “The UK in a Global World: How to focus on steps in global value chains that really add value?” This conference was held at BIS on 14 June 2012 and brought together representatives of academia, business and policy makers from across Europe to discuss recent developments in trade and industrial economics, focusing on value chains, trade in value added and their implications for 21st century trade and industrial policies. BIS commissioned CEPR to produce two papers that were presented at this conference. The two papers were:

1. “Value Creation and Trade in 21st Century Manufacturing: What Policies for UK Manufacturing?” by Richard Baldwin (The Graduate Institute and CEPR) and Simon Evenett (University of St. Gallen)
2. “Comparative advantage and service trade” by Giordano Mion (London School of Economics and CEPR)

### **Modelling the potential benefits of removing the remaining barriers to trade in the Single Market**

The end of 2012 will mark the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Single Market, currently the biggest trading area with a population of more than 500 million people. The Commission’s goal of marking this anniversary is to take stock of the implementation of the Single Market and to propose new measures to improve its functioning, especially in the services sector. In this context, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is looking at re-assessing the potential economic benefits of completing the Single Market to the UK by building on the most recent available economic tools and databases, with the aim to inform policy makers as what else there is to be achieved from further economic integration. Importantly the new research should quantify potential economic benefits from deeper integration by economic sectors depending on the level of liberalisation and the speed at which barriers will be removed. The aim of this project is to produce a dataset with simulations of the potential costs and benefits for the UK and the EU economies of a deepening of the Single Market in different sectors (and overall) over different time periods.

### **Estimating Long Run Trade Elasticities**

With the economically developed economies facing a prolonged period of slow growth, the question “*Where will the demand for UK exports come from in the future?*” is becoming even more important. Conventional wisdom suggests that as emerging economies become richer, they will increasingly demand more of the ‘high value added’ products economies such as the UK tend to specialise in. However, to date this hypothesis has been largely untested in the literature. The aim of this research is to explore how demand for imports will change in response to rising incomes and changes in relative prices. In this context, the study will complement the Foreign and Commonwealth Office analysis on the future import demand growth by country/region and will provide valuable insight into how the £1 trillion export target can be achieved.

### **Contributions of the extensive and intensive margins of trade to growth in the value of UK exports**

This research will help gain further understanding of the respective contributions of the extensive and intensive margins of trade to growth in the value of UK exports, and how these may vary across markets, sectors, and size of exporter. This project would use data from ONS on services exporters (ITIS), and from HMRC on goods exporters, to provide firm level evidence on UK export performance that has not previously been available.

### **International value chain of UK based design**

This research will help the Intellectual Property Office to understand the role of design rights in supporting design exports and to support modernisation of the UK design right system. Research has been published.

## **Policy and Programme Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **UK Based Events**

The purpose is to assess the type of events that are relatively more effective in encouraging exports and investment. Also, to understand the key success factors and how UKTI can reach to the right audiences, and most importantly how best to achieve value for money.

### **Olympics**

The assessment will measure the economic benefits to the UK businesses from various Olympics related activities that were organised before and during the Olympics.

### **Supply Chain Effects Evaluation**

The evaluation focuses on the nature and extent of UK supply chain effects which may result from business use of UKTI trade services; and gather evidence about some of the potential wider effects of these services.

### **PIMS (Performance and Impact Monitoring Survey) Main User Survey**

This survey monitors UKTI services. The major monitoring aspects include client profile and business strategy, performance of UKTI services, and quantitative as well as qualitative impact. In addition to regular PIMS surveys a follow-up user survey will also be completed to understand development between now and when they were surveyed in the past.

### **PIMS Non-User Survey**

This survey will understand the effectiveness of services provided by the non-UKTI providers (e.g. Chambers and business associations), barriers that businesses face in new markets, and also gather data on business profile and strategy.

### **Internationalisation Strategy, Barriers, and Awareness Survey**

This survey will help to better understand the internationalisation strategies, modes, motives, and trends. Also, the survey will explore contribution to innovation by the overseas businesses, barriers to new markets, awareness of UKTI services, and business profile—including innovation and growth.

**Performance Tracker**

This monitoring exercise will try to understand overseas and overall business development; export and overall revenue growth; and key performance indicators.

## **iv) To create the most competitive tax system in the G20**

### **Policy Development**

#### **Patent Box tax concession**

This project will consist of providing support for the HMRC tax data based research system, to enable the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) to understand and influence the impact of the Patent Box tax concession; IPO will be particularly interested in identifying how far the incentive is taken up by SMEs, and its influence on behaviour by patenting firms and patent users. Project expected to start later this year.

### **Reviews of Evidence**

#### **International evidence on tax incentives for skills training**

UK tax incentives are lower than the USA and some EU states but it is not possible to assess the impact of current work-related training tax deductions as data is not routinely collected by HMRC. Given this, the aim of this project is to gather international evidence on the impact tax incentives have on the take-up of training. The research will include an evidence review of international tax incentives, including a focus on a number of case study countries with comparison to the UK. The research will be externally commissioned and published on the BIS website.

# Publication of research

It is Departmental policy for all research projects commissioned or undertaken by BIS to be published on the Economic and Social Research page of the BIS website<sup>2</sup>. Research reports can also be found via links on the webpages of the applicable policy area.

For further information about a specific piece of research, please contact [christopher.bryant@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:christopher.bryant@bis.gsi.gov.uk)

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economics-statistics/economics/bis-research>

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