

## The Richard Review terms of reference (June 2012)

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### Summary

1. The Government wishes to commission an independent review of apprenticeships in England, to ensure that in the future the programme is meeting the needs of the changing economy, consistently delivers the professionally recognised qualifications and skills which employers and learners need, and is maximising the impact of government investment.

#### Detail

2. To be led by a senior, independent business figure, the review should take critical look at apprenticeships and look to identify a set of principles and priorities for the optimal content of future apprenticeships, to ensure that every apprenticeship delivers new high quality training and professionally recognised qualifications.

3. The review should identify the best of current practice and recommend ways to extend this.

4. Key questions to be considered include:

- What should the core components of an apprenticeship be - to meet the needs of employers (large and small), individuals, and the wider economy?
- Are there elements of apprenticeships which should be simplified or stripped back?
- Are the qualifications which are undertaken as part of an apprenticeship sufficiently rigorous, and recognised and valued by employers?
- How should delivery arrangements adequately ensure all that apprenticeships provide significant new learning and acquisition of new skills, rather than the accreditation of existing ones?
- Are there opportunities to improve the impact and value for money of public investment in apprenticeships?

#### Timing

5. The review should report in Autumn 2012.