



Enterprise Bill: Public sector apprenticeship targets

Issue:

The Government aims to deliver 3 million apprenticeship starts in this Parliament. We set high expectations for large and small businesses in the private sector to employ apprentices. We want to ensure that the public sector is a model employer in this regard, leading by example and employing a significant proportion of apprentices to develop a skilled workforce for the future. Expanding the number of apprenticeships in the public sector will support growth in the programme and will also be a clear sign that the Government is investing in apprenticeships. To help achieve these objectives, certain public bodies will now be set targets for apprentices.

Measure:

The measure will:

- provide a power for the Secretary of State to set targets for public sector bodies in relation to the number of apprentices who work for them in England (the public bodies within scope of the clause will be set out in regulations);
- apply to most public sector organisations (there will be discretion not to include some public bodies, for example at present the Government does not propose to include public bodies with fewer than 250 employees); and
- require these bodies to have regard to any targets set on them and to report annually on progress against meeting those targets.

Aims and Impact:

The measure will:

- increase the number of apprenticeships in the public sector;
- improve the capacity and capability of the public sector, ensuring that it benefits from the same positive impacts as in the rest of the economy;
- help to meet the Government's commitment to deliver 3 million apprenticeships within this Parliament; and
- ensure the public sector is leading by example in terms of the number (and quality) of apprenticeships.