



Department
for Education

Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Fair Work, Skills & Training
Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

Minister for Skills

1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
T +44 (0) 20 7215.5000
E enquiries@bis.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/bis
www.education.gov.uk

20 August 2015

Dear Roseanna,

APPRENTICESHIP LEVY

Thank you for your letter of 8th August about the Apprenticeship Levy. I wrote to you and Devolved Administration colleagues on 21st August about the consultation.

I welcome your support for the principle of employers contributing towards the costs of training and development of their workforce, and note your concerns about the potential impact on how the Scottish Government operates its own Modern Apprenticeship and other skills programmes.

The main purpose of this consultation is to establish the views of employers on how to implement the apprenticeships programme in England, once a levy is introduced on all UK employers. This will include questions on how employers in England can access and control apprenticeships funding, but will also seek the views of employers operating across borders within the UK on how the system should work for them. In terms of public sector employers, our expectation is that the levy will apply to larger employers, both public and private and the consultation will be seeking the views of both.

Scottish Ministers have, and will retain control of, skills provision in Scotland. Therefore, it is for the Scottish Government to decide how apprenticeships will operate in Scotland. Time pressures mean that we have not been able to delay the start of the consultation process. However, I am very keen to further understand your interests and concerns, so have asked my officials and those from HM Treasury to engage with yours as soon as possible to establish the full set of implications for the devolved administrations.

I am copying this reply to Greg Hands and your copy list.

NICK BOLES MP

cc Rt Hon Greg Hands MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Rt Hon David Mundell MP
Secretary of State for Scotland

Lord Dunlop
Parliamentary Under Secretary
Scotland Office

Julie James AC / AM, Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology

Dr Stephen Farry MLA, Minister for Employment and Learning