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Education and Skills Committee

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May 2019

Amendment to Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 5: 'The number of Modern Apprentices at Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) Level 3 and above to be increased'.

I am writing to you to inform you of an amendment to one of the Developing the Young Workforce Key Performance Indicators, KPI 5 (To increase the number of Modern Apprentices at level 3 and above. The target is for 20,000 out of a total of 30,000 MA starts to be at this level by 2021, i.e. two-thirds).

As you will be aware, progress across the DYW programme is assessed against 11 KPIs and a headline target to reduce youth unemployment by 40% by 2021. Through KPI 5 we aim to measure the increase in higher level Modern Apprenticeships, to ensure we continue to equip young people with the skills required to succeed in both current and future labour markets.

Modern Apprenticeship (MA) frameworks have previously been aligned to Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) Levels. From 1st April 2018, most current MA frameworks have been assigned a Scottish Credit and Qualifications framework (SCQF) credit level, which is the main format of recording qualifications in Scotland.

These changes have consequences for KPI 5's reporting and target. SCQF Levels 6 – 12 are broadly the best match to KPI 5's previous SVQ Level 3+ reporting. However, the two frameworks are not a complete match due to an overlap of SCQF Level 6 across SVQ Levels 2 and 3.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot



Most MAs that sit at SVQ Level 2 will be classified at SCQF Level 5 – these MAs will remain outside the scope of KPI 5. However, there are a small number of MAs that have previously been classified at SVQ Level 2 that will now be classified at SCQF Level 6. These MAs would not have previously been included in KPI 5. This means it will no longer be possible to report on KPI 5 as per the initial definition or to maintain the time series.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) have identified six MA frameworks¹, that were previously SVQ Level 2 and are now SCQF Level 6, containing ten vocational qualifications (VQs). These ten VQs represent 6.5% of a total of 153 vocational qualifications that sit at SVQ Level 2. Measuring KPI 5 using SCQF Level 6 and above, and including MA frameworks which have been reclassified from SVQ Level 2 to SCQF Level 6, will result in approximately a 2.0% (or 257) increase in starts².

In response to these changes, I have approved the amendment of DYW KPI 5's definition to be altered to: "The number of Modern Apprentices at SCQF Level 6 and above to be increased".

These changes also mean that KPI 5's target will be extended. The previous target was for 20,000 out of a total of 30,000 MA starts to be at SVQ 3 and above by 2021. The new target is for 20,500 out of a total of 30,000 MA starts to be at SCQF Level 6 and above by 2021.

Reconfiguring the target from 2018/19 onwards will result in a discontinuity in KPI 5's time series. The KPI for 2013/14 to 2017 will be based on the previous definition. Going forward from 2017/18, the KPI will be based on the new definition.

SDS will report on the newly configured KPI 5 in the MA Quarter 4 2018/19 statistical briefing on the 11th June 2019. Scottish Government officials will report on it in the DYW Annual Progress Report in December 2019. This change will also be highlighted to DYW Programme Board members and the DYW National Advisory Group when the groups next convene.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours Sincerely

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¹ 1) Active Leisure, Learning and Wellbeing; 2) Extractive and Mineral Processing; 3) Healthcare Support; 4) Housing; 5) Life Sciences; and 6) Social Services and Healthcare

² The Quarter 3 2018/19 MA briefing showed 79 MA starts following older frameworks that sit at SVQ Level 3 – these are a legacy of previous SVQ Level reporting. As these MA frameworks are due to be phased out, these MAs will not be included in the reconfigured KPI 5 target from 2018/19 – a note will be provided outlining how many individuals this includes.