



Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

training. Our comments were aimed at reinforcing the importance of these aspects complementing each other effectively, and of including the opportunity to gain any other relevant technical qualifications in addition to the degree. We have found in our inspections of the delivery of apprenticeships at other levels, that it is essential that both the on and off-the job training are designed to complement each other and that this relationship is reviewed regularly to ensure it delivers as planned.

From our report on higher apprenticeships we noted that in the best cases employers allocate an experienced mentor to work with their learners, but in a few cases learners do not receive any mentoring support from their employers. To ensure that learners reach their full potential and develop the workplace skills required by their employers, a workplace mentor should be identified at the start of the programme. This was one of the recommendations from our report which we felt would be helpful advice for the degree apprenticeship programmes.

When we mentioned in our written evidence that higher education institutions may have less experience of liaison with employers and learners in the workplace for the work-based learning element, we meant only that degree apprenticeships is a new way of delivering higher education, which is distinct and different from previous models. It was not to suggest that universities and other regulated institutions of higher education do not already have a range of partnerships with employers through the diverse work they do. When we write 'work-based learning' we are referring specifically to apprenticeships not elements of learning which have work-experience attached.

In discussing the monitoring of the quality of support offered by employers to apprentices, some witnesses highlighted the difference of approach currently in the methodology of quality assurance reviews between QAA and Estyn. In our written evidence we state that we would be '*keen to work with other quality assurance organisations on developing a joint quality review, to build on our expertise and experience in inspecting apprenticeships at levels 1-5.*' We do not have a one-size fits all approach to inspection. Our methodology for inspecting apprenticeship provision is different to a school inspection and includes first hand observation of learners in on-the-job training in their workplace and off-the job training delivered in various ways both off-site or in the workplace. These inspections include peer inspectors from other apprenticeship providers as part of every team and consider the voice of apprentices, training provider staff and the employer through bespoke surveys. First-hand observation of training and assessor activity, as well as scrutiny

Estyn, Llys Angor/Anchor Court, Heol Keen/Keen Road, Caerdydd/Cardiff, CF24 5JW

Ffôn/Telephone 02920 446446

ymholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru • enquiries@estyn.gov.wales

www.estyn.llyw.cymru • www.estyn.gov.wales

Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a
Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn y naill
iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth.

Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English
and Welsh. Correspondence received in either
language will be given equal priority.



Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

of the training provider's own quality assurance and improvement work, form the evidence base for our judgements.

We have welcomed HEFCW's invitation for us to join QAA in carrying out a joint developmental quality assurance review of the pilot degree apprenticeship programmes. This has the potential to enable collaboration between the two quality bodies to ensure that both our experiences can inform the bespoke quality review for these pilot programmes. This would help to share understanding of our respective approaches to quality assurance and enhancement and enable the review to focus on all aspects of the degree apprenticeship programme, based on our respective experience and expertise in quality assuring apprenticeships (Estyn) and higher education (QAA). We already have a good working relationship with HEFCW and QAA which is maintained through joint working protocols and regular meetings to share information, particularly where our responsibilities/interests overlap – such as with these new programmes and when discussing HE in FE.

We would be happy to talk to the Committee about the work we do if you feel it would be helpful to the inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Meilyr Rowlands'.

Meilyr Rowlands

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of
Education and Training in Wales

Estyn, Llys Angor/Anchor Court, Heol Keen/Keen Road, Caerdydd/Cardiff, CF24 5JW

Ffôn/Telephone 02920 446446

ymholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru • enquiries@estyn.gov.wales

www.estyn.llyw.cymru • www.estyn.gov.wales

Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a
Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn y naill
iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth.

Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English
and Welsh. Correspondence received in either
language will be given equal priority.