

Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI)
Opening statement to the Joint Committee on Education and Skills on the
uptake of apprenticeships and traineeships
20 November 2018

On behalf of Education and Training Boards Ireland, and the 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs) that ETBI represents, I am very pleased to make this statement to the Joint Committee for Education and Skills on the uptake of apprenticeships and traineeships.

ETBs are statutory authorities which have responsibility for education and training, youth work and a range of other statutory functions. ETBs manage and operate second-level schools, further education colleges, community national schools and a range of adult and further education centres in communities throughout Ireland.

Since the call for apprenticeship proposals by the Apprenticeship Council in 2015 and subsequently in 2017, ETBs have been actively engaged in expanding the range of apprenticeship offering within the FET sector in collaboration with industry, working closely with SOLAS, the Apprenticeship Council and other stakeholders while continuing to deliver craft apprenticeship training nationally, supporting SOLAS as collaborating providers.

The Commis Chef Apprenticeship was rolled out in Q4 2017 with 125 apprentices registered¹ with 104 participating employers. The Auctioneering and Property Services Apprenticeship was rolled out this year in Dublin and Cork with 52 apprentices registered and 40 employers participating. The Butcher Apprenticeship was recently rolled out, and registrations are ongoing for the 2018 intake. An additional six new Industry-led apprenticeships are planned for 2019. The OEM Engineering Apprenticeship was validated recently by QQI and is preparing for rollout in Cavan Monaghan and Limerick Clare ETB's. The remaining five new Industry-led apprenticeships are in development and preparing for submission to QQI for validation, early 2019.

Since 2016, ETB's have been actively engaged with Industry partners with 24 new traineeships introduced to date. In 2016, four new traineeships were rolled out in

¹As of the 24th Oct 2018

Hospitality NFQ Level 4, Hospitality NFQ Level 5, Engineering OEM and Interior Systems. In 2017, an additional six traineeships were introduced in Animation, Certified Accountancy Pathway, Digital Sales and Marketing, Engineering Operations, Hairdressing and Laboratory Assistant. 2018 has seen a significant increase with 14 new traineeships rolled out with another 10 traineeship programmes expected to roll out by the end of 2018

While the uptake of people participating in new apprenticeships and traineeships are lower than projected several factors need to be considered to understand the current challenges and the following summary points are outlined for consideration:

- The SOLAS Authorised Officers appointed in ETB's need to reflect the expansion of the apprenticeship model in Ireland to ensure employers and apprentices are supported, and the quality of national statutory apprenticeships are maintained.
- Ways of attracting, incentivising and supporting employers who employ, and train apprentices need to be considered to ensure the continued success of the apprenticeship model. Enabling potential apprentices to connect with employers is essential to provide a route for those interested in the apprenticeship model of learning.
- ETBI will continue to work with SOLAS, Apprenticeship Council, the Department of Education and Skills and other stakeholders to enhance the marketing and promotion of apprenticeship and traineeships at national level, to endorse these options as rewarding careers meeting the skill needs of the economy and providing a highly skilled talent pool for employers.
- ETBI acknowledge the importance of career guidance to empower young people to make well-informed and sustainable educational choices that match their capabilities and career aspirations. ETBI plan to host a learner-centred Further Education and Training Conference to create awareness and understanding of

options and career pathways to work based learning opportunities for learners, their parents and career guidance counsellors.

- Continued resourcing of the FET sector in terms of recruitment/retention of suitably qualified staff, access to state-of-the-art training facilities and equipment, is critical if ETBs are to support work-based learning in the 21st-century meeting the needs of the economy, industry and local communities.

In conclusion, ETBs have been working collaboratively with Industry partners, SOLAS, QQI and other providers and have a leading role in the provision of cost-effective off-the-job training to apprentices and trainees across a wide range of career areas in the communities where the apprentices/trainees reside.