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National Assembly for Wales

Children and Young People Committee

Education (Wales) Bill : Stage 1

Response from : National Training Federation for Wales

NTfW is a membership federation of over 100 organisations involved in the delivery of learning in the workplace. It is a Wales wide representative body for all those organisations or individuals involved in the training industry. Members range from small specialist training providers to national and international organisations, as well as Local Authorities, Further Education Institutions and Charities.

The Education (Wales) Bill which will extend professionally-led regulation to a wider group of education practitioners and reconfigure the Council was introduced to the National Assembly on 2nd July.

NTfW members are very disappointed that Work-based learning (WBL) is not explicitly included in the extended registration categories. We are however mentioned in the Explanatory Memorandum which indicates that it is the intention to include WBL within the compass of registration.

As a network we have welcomed the whole consultation process and responded positively to being included at the heart of the extended professionally-led regulation. We even stated that we would welcome this at the first opportunity.

We believe that this Bill is missing a perfect opportunity to finally start to get parity of esteem between the Skills and Education profession which in turn will push forward the parity between Vocational and Academic.

We have invested heavily in the concept of the WBL staff inclusion in this Bill on an equal footing and not as an after-thought. We have the buy in from the whole sector.

We have expressed this at all stages, so you will understand our disappointment and the missed opportunities for Wales and its aspirations on skills.

Arwyn Watkins
CEO, NTfW