



RTPI Cymru
Royal Town Planning Institute
Sefydliad Cynllunio Trefol Brenhinol

Ken Skates MS
Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales
Welsh Government
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Dear Minister

Planning Apprenticeships

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the largest professional institute for planners in Europe, representing some 26,000 spatial planners. RTPI Cymru represents the RTPI in Wales, with 1,300 members. The Institute seeks to advance the science and art of planning, working for the long-term common good and well-being of current and future generations. The RTPI develops and shapes policy affecting the built environment, works to raise professional standards and supports members through continuous education, training and development.

We work with employers to continue to promote a diverse and inclusive profession. We want to demonstrate that a career in planning is open for all to join. The single most influential way to diversify the profession is through the education system. We need to broaden the talent coming into the profession. For us to be an effective and sustainable profession, we must be genuinely representative of the society in which we work.

The traditional route to becoming a Chartered Town Planner is via university. However we know that this route can be prohibitive to some in society. In England we launched a Degree level Chartered Town Planning Apprenticeship in 2019, which includes an RTPI accredited qualification and professional membership on completion. We currently have over 240 apprentices on the programme.

A survey of our apprentices in England in 2020 showed:

- 66% female.
- 41% under 25 in age.
- 10% from non-white backgrounds (BAME and mixed ethnicity).
- 51% from non-degree family backgrounds.

A significant majority (88%) are based in public sector.

Some planning services in Wales report the difficulty of recruiting planners able to work through the medium of Welsh. One issue is having a knowledge of and the confidence to

use the technical language in Welsh. The RTPI's ambition to have a profession which is representative of communities includes Welsh speaking communities.

The RTPI would welcome the opportunity to discuss the development of the Chartered Town Planner apprenticeship qualification in Wales. The RTPI believes in the importance of broadening the diversity of the talent pipeline into the planning profession afforded through apprenticeships, and the opportunities it offers to bring people in from under-represented groups and also from more rural communities.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Roisin Willmott OBE FRTPi

Director

c.c. Julie James MS, Minister for Housing and Local Government

Neil Hemington, Chief Planner, Welsh Government