

# Structure for Welsh Apprenticeship Frameworks

## Consultation Response Form

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Responses should be returned by 9 December to

Apprenticeship Unit  
Further Education and Apprenticeships Division  
Welsh Government  
Ty Afon  
Bedwas Road  
Bedwas  
Caerphilly  
CF83 8WT

or completed electronically and sent to:

e-mail: [DfES-ApprenticeshipUnit@gov.wales](mailto:DfES-ApprenticeshipUnit@gov.wales).

**Question 1** - Do you agree with the principle of apprenticeship sectors and pathways being linked to occupations?

<b>Agree</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Supporting comments**

Linking apprenticeships to occupations helps to ensure that apprentices gain the specific skills, knowledge and experience they need to be successful in their chosen professional career. Where this aligns with the requirements for professional registration this can enable an apprentice to achieve professional recognition and be fully qualified at the same standard as other educational routes to ensure take up and support both within and across industries. As the professional body for Planning in the UK, the RTPI would welcome the opportunity to develop Chartered Town Planner apprenticeship qualifications in alignment with existing roles. This has been piloted in England.

**Question 2** - What impact might occur in removing existing generic frameworks (e.g. business administration and management)?

No comment. The RTPI's focus is on achieving a framework for a Chartered Town Planner apprenticeship framework.

**Question 3** - Are there any broad occupational sectors you would expect to see that are not included?

No – Planning is listed in the construction sector. We note that other professional pathways for example Historic Environment or Environmental Management might appear missing from proposed sector 1 and/or sector 4.

**Question 4** - Should any of the proposed occupational sectors be renamed, realigned, merged or split?

No this seems acceptable for Planning.

**Question 5** - Are the occupational pathways appropriate and aligned correctly within sectors?

Yes Planning should be located in construction sector. Planning is grouped with Design, Surveying, Planning and Management. These roles require different skills, knowledge and experience recognised across the four industries, and reflected by individual professional registration bodies. We would therefore expect there to be a different apprenticeships for each of these four areas, or they must be split into individual pathways.

**Question 6** - We would like to know your views on the effects that changes to the structure of apprenticeship frameworks in Wales would have on the Welsh language, specifically on:

- i) opportunities for people to use Welsh
- ii) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

### **Supporting comments**

The consultation does not refer to the Welsh language, however it could be dealt with in the design and implementation of each framework. It will be important to offer delivery opportunities through the medium of Welsh to meet the needs of employers as well as offering trainees.

**Question 7** - Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy could be formulated or changed so as to have:

- i) positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language
- ii) no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

### Supporting comments

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. An ambition of the RTPI is to encourage a profession which is representative of communities, which will include Welsh speaking communities; apprenticeships are a good way of recruiting a broader mix and representative candidates into the profession. Currently, the vast majority of planners enter the profession after graduating from RTPI-accredited undergraduate or postgraduate planning degrees.

**Question 8:** We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

The RTPI would welcome the opportunity to discuss the development of Chartered Town Planner apprenticeship qualifications. 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.

We have successfully piloted a new Chartered Town Planner apprenticeship qualification in England with 190 new recruits to the profession supported by over 100 employers and would like to extend this across the UK.

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: