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House of Lords
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Department
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Innovation & Skills

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Dear Tom,

At the Enterprise Bill Lords Report on Wednesday 25 November you raised the issue of apprenticeship quality in relation to the Enterprise Bill. I wanted to write to provide more clarity about how we are intending to support quality through the measures in this Bill and other legislation.

The measure to protect the term apprenticeship from misuse by training providers will strengthen and protect the high quality reputation of the apprenticeship brand for training providers, employers and apprentices. It aims to prevent providers from mis-selling low quality training as apprenticeships for commercial gain. The legislation will enable the Government to take firm action in these cases, helping to reassure apprentices, employers and providers that they are investing in high quality apprenticeships.

As I said at Report we also intend to establish a new independent body called the Institute for Apprenticeships, which will be led by employers, to support the quality of apprenticeships within the context of achieving three million starts. This responds to the need to assure the long term quality of the apprenticeship programme so that we can deliver genuinely world-class apprenticeships. An independent Chair will lead the work of the Institute, supported by a small Board made up primarily of employers, business leaders and their representatives, to ensure employers continue to drive apprenticeship quality at the highest level across the private and public sector. We will be legislating to establish the Institute and we will be able to share more information with you as we develop these proposals.

I look forward to meeting with Lord Young to discuss quality in more detail with my colleague Minister for Skills, Nick Boles MP at the Apprenticeship Quality Seminar in January 2016.

I hope that you have found this information useful. I will arrange for a copy of this letter to be deposited in the library of the House.

Warm regards

Lucy

BARONESS NEVILLE-ROLFE DBE CMG

PS A copy of this letter goes to
Tony Young.