

Rt Hon John Hays MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

27 November 2018

Dear Mr Hays

Re: Parliamentary Question 191286 on STEM content in apprenticeships

The Department for Education has asked the Institute for Apprenticeships to respond to you directly regarding your Parliamentary Question 191286 in which you enquire about the criteria the Institute uses to decide the level of STEM content required by apprenticeship standards; and what assessment the Minister has made of the effect of that requirement on the costs to employers of providing off-the-job training for apprentices. I am replying as the Chief Executive, Sir Gerry Berragan, is on leave.

Employers, when they form apprenticeship trailblazers, set out the necessary knowledge skills and behaviours that represent competence in the particular apprenticeship occupation. The level of STEM content required therefore varies according to the occupation; the Institute does not prescribe a particular level of STEM content across all occupations.

However, there is a requirement for apprentices to have or develop sufficient Maths and English skills in support of their broader career development. Apprentices undertaking level 3 and above apprenticeships are required to achieve a level 2 Maths qualification, apprentices undertaking level 2 apprenticeships are required to achieve a level 1 Maths qualification.

I understand that the Rt Hon Anne Milton, the Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Minister for Women, responded to the second part of your question on the 22 November.

I hope this helpfully answers your question.

Yours sincerely



Robert Nitsch
Chief Operating Officer, Institute for Apprenticeships