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House of Commons  
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12 June 2019

Dear Mr Jones,

Thank you for your recent correspondence with the Department for Education in relation to the proposal for a Pharmacy Apprenticeship Standard. Your correspondence dated the 4 June 2019 sought clarification on a number of questions which cuts across the work of the Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education ('The Institute'). I have therefore been asked to reply.

I have set out your questions below and provided a response to each in turn.

***To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of whether the Institute for Apprenticeship and Technical Education's decision not to identify the participants of trailblazer groups is consistent with his Departments policy on openness and transparency (259069)***

The Institute recognises the need for transparency and public confidence in its decision-making process for approving apprenticeship standards. It is for this reason that we proactively publish the names of the employers involved in creating a standard once the occupational proposal has been approved. Until that time, we consider it premature to publish the names of the employers involved.

The Institute expects to publish the membership details of employer groups on its [website](#) subject to the Institute approving a proposal for development of a standard.

***To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will publish the responses to The Institute for Apprenticeship and Technical Education's consultation on the introduction of a five-year pharmacy apprenticeship scheme (259070)***

The Institute does not currently publish the responses to any of its consultations relating to the development of an apprenticeship standard. However, this information could potentially be made available upon request, subject to the Institute complying with its legal obligations (for example, under data protection legislation).

***To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will publish the names of the organisations which responded to The Institute for Apprenticeship and***

***Technical Education's consultation regarding the introduction of a pharmacy apprenticeship scheme (259071)***

At this point in time, the Institute does not intend to publish the names of the organisations which responded to the consultation regarding the proposal for a Pharmacy Apprenticeship Standard. We will, however, continue to review our processes and in the round consider whether we should publish such information in the future.

***To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he made an assessment of the effect of Skills for Health representation of health organisations on its neutrality before commissioning Skills for Health to facilitate meetings between pharmacist employers on the five-year pharmacy apprenticeship (259072)***

***To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he has plans to further engage with employer and employee representatives prior to the development of proposed five-year pharmacy apprenticeships (259074)***

I have taken these two questions together.

First, Skills for Health has been commissioned by Health Education England to support the development of this apprenticeship, including stakeholder engagement sessions. A stakeholder event for professional membership organisations and employers is planned for July. For further details, Skills for Health can be contacted at [healthcare.trailblazer@skillsforhealth.org.uk](mailto:healthcare.trailblazer@skillsforhealth.org.uk)

The Institute stands ready to support the UK's pharmaceutical industry, as well as employers who come forward with proposals for apprenticeships at all levels which will help to build the high-level technical skills needed for the jobs of the future.

I hope that you find this reply useful.

Yours sincerely,



**Sir Gerry Berragan**  
Chief Executive  
Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education