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By email: [gordonmarsdenmp@parliament.uk](mailto:gordonmarsdenmp@parliament.uk)

13 November 2019

Dear Mr Marsden,

The Department for Education has asked me to respond to you directly on behalf of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education regarding your Parliamentary Questions which were laid before the dissolution of Parliament:

- PQ 6227: *To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the average length of time is for agreeing standards for apprenticeships in the maritime industry through the Trailblazer working group model.*
- PQ 7071: *To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the amount of sea time required by employers in order to qualify as an Able Seafarer (Deck) apprentice.*

#### PQ 6227

Please see the table below which shows the date that the apprenticeship proposal was agreed, and the date that the apprenticeship standard was approved for delivery, for each maritime standard we have identified.

The average delivery time for these standards, from proposal to being approved for delivery, was 690 days. It should be noted that the Institute was not established until the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, and for maritime apprenticeship proposals that predated the Institute the average time from inception to delivery was 805 days. For the two apprenticeship proposals that were received following the establishment of the Institute, the average approval time was 403 days. Following the introduction of the Institute's 'faster and better' processes in February 2018, the average time taken from proposal to delivery across all apprenticeships standards is now 370 days, where a proposal has been agreed since February.

Reference	Name	Status	Date proposal agreed	Date approved for delivery	Development time (days)
ST0400	Workboat Crewmember	standard-approved	2016-03-01	2018-07-31	883
ST0592	Marina and Boatyard Operative	standard-approved	2017-07-03	2018-12-17	531
ST0274	Able Seafarer (Deck)	standard-approved	2014-07-30	2015-08-25	391
ST0428	Port Marine Operations Officer	standard-approved	2016-01-01	2017-12-10	709
ST0427	Marine Pilot	standard-approved	2016-01-01	2018-06-25	907
ST0307	Port operative	standard-approved	2017-12-18	2018-09-19	276
ST0394	Maritime Operations Officer	standard-approved	2015-11-02	2018-12-10	1134
<b>Average (rounded)</b>					<b>690</b>

### PQ 7071

The Able Seafarer (Deck) apprenticeship standard sets out the knowledge, skills and behaviours that are collectively needed in order to be fully competent in this occupation. This competency is tested by end-point assessment (EPA). However, in this apprenticeship the EPA only takes place once all relevant regulatory requirements are met, which in this case means the apprentice must also attain certain maritime certificates. This includes, for instance, the Maritime Coastguard Agency's (MCA's) Efficient Deckhand Certificate, which requires a minimum 12 months sea time. This statutory requirement is not set by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education and we rely instead on the expertise of regulators, such as the MCA, to set their own requirements.

I hope these responses are helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gerry Berragan".

**Sir Gerry Berragan**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Institute for Apprenticeships and technical Education