



Baroness Barran

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System
Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe

Lord Aberdare
House of Lords
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

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Dear Alastair,

Thank you for your contribution to the debate on the Education (Careers Guidance in Schools) Bill. I am writing to give further details following your question about whether careers professionals will be available in sufficient number and quality to deliver the ambitious plans that the Government has outlined.

As set out in my [letter to you on 9 November 2021](#), the Department for Education works closely with the Career Development Institute (CDI). The CDI is the single UK-wide professional body for careers professionals. The organisation is doing excellent work to put in place programmes to train and upskill careers professionals, including a new focus on digital skills.

We support this work by recommending in [careers statutory guidance](#) that all careers professionals are qualified to a minimum of level 6 and that schools and colleges consult the UK Register of Careers Professionals when commissioning independent careers guidance for students. As of February 2021, there are approximately 1,600 people on the register.

A strong partnership between careers professionals and Careers Leaders should underpin effective careers provision in schools and colleges. The Careers Leader is responsible and accountable for the coordination and delivery of the school or college careers programme. We are investing in the training and development of Careers Leaders so that they can become effective commissioners of careers guidance.

In the Skills for Jobs white paper, we committed to invest in more high-quality training for Careers Leaders, who have proven to be knowledgeable and effective in leading a careers programme. Training has shown to make a positive difference to the knowledge and skills of Careers Leaders, the quality of careers programmes and performance against the Gatsby Benchmarks.

In addition to this, we want to create quality interactions between schools and businesses. There are now around 4,000 senior business volunteers working as Enterprise Advisers with schools and colleges to develop their career strategies and employer engagement plans.

DfE also funds the National Careers Service which employs more than 870 careers advisers to provide free, up to date, impartial information, advice and guidance on careers, skills and the labour market to people of all ages. To ensure quality all National Careers Service prime contractors and sub-contractors are required to be accredited to the matrix Quality Standard as a condition of contract and undertake annual continuous improvement checks. Prime contractors also need to have a workforce development strategy in place which includes staff competency frameworks and plans for CPD.

Our approach is working, Gatsby benchmark 8 for personal guidance continues to be the strongest performing benchmark among schools and colleges. Some 80% of secondary schools reported providing most of their students with an interview with a qualified careers adviser by the end of year 11 in 2021 (up from 74% in 2019) and 58% provided students with a further interview by the end of Year 13 in 2021 (up from 50% in 2019).

I hope this information is helpful, and I would like to thank you again for your contributions to the Bill's debate. I will place a copy of this letter in the House Libraries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Barran".

BARONESS BARRAN
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE