

Seema Malhotra MP  
Member of Parliament for Feltham and Heston  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

15 April 2024

By email: [seema.malhotra.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:seema.malhotra.mp@parliament.uk)

Dear Seema Malhotra,

The Department for Education (DfE) has asked me to respond to you directly regarding the following Parliamentary Question:

**To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many standards the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education has retired in the last two years; and for what reason those standards were retired. 18457**

There are currently 1,063 occupations on IfATE's occupational maps which are covered by an approved occupational standard. These occupational standards set out the knowledge, skills and behaviours employers require for competence in an occupation.

Occupational standards form the basis of all apprenticeships, T Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications. The approvals process IfATE is currently running is also applying these employer defined standards to level 2 and level 3 technical qualifications submitted by awarding organisations.

We regularly review and revise occupational standards to keep pace with new and emerging skills requirements and the needs of employers.

We tend not to retire occupational standards once they are developed as they support work-based and classroom-based training through qualifications as well as apprenticeships. However, we do occasionally retire an apprenticeship based on an occupational standard. This means prohibiting new starts on the apprenticeship from the date when the product is retired.

Since April 2022, we have retired 32 apprenticeships. The reasons for retiring an apprenticeship can vary but are generally one or more of the following:

- lack of employer demand for the apprenticeship.

- lack of interest amongst Training Providers and/or End-Point Assessment Organisations to deliver the apprenticeship (generally related to economic viability).
- where the content of the apprenticeship has been revised so significantly that the level of the apprenticeship also needs to be changed (resulting in the creation of a new apprenticeship).
- where the apprenticeship has been superseded by another apprenticeship, for example, where a “core and options” apprenticeship is broken out into separate apprenticeships, or where two apprenticeships are merged to reflect the fact that the occupations have generally merged in the workplace).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Coupland". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Jennifer Coupland**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education**