**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith**
**Minister for Skills**
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Sent via email: depositedpapers@parliament.uk

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Dear library clerk,

I would like to deposit, alongside this letter, a copy of the new International Labour Organisation recommendation regarding quality apprenticeships into the library.

The June 2023 International Labour Conference took place in Geneva where officials, employers and workers from member states agreed upon a new international labour standard in the form of a recommendation concerning quality apprenticeships (Quality Apprenticeships Recommendation – R208).

This recommendation was the result of multi-year work by the International Labour Organisation, a United Nations agency, in gathering information from member states, culminating in discussions to form a recommendation which sets clear benchmarks for improving the quality of apprenticeships around the world.

The recommendation supports establishing apprenticeship systems and expanding apprenticeship programmes whilst ensuring rights and protections for apprentices, and enables member states the discretion to adapt the guidance to their national circumstances.

We welcome this recommendation – this Government has committed to widening the apprenticeships offer into a reformed growth and skills offer, which will offer greater flexibility to employers and learners and align with the industrial strategy. As a first step, this will include shorter duration and foundation apprenticeships in targeted sectors, helping more people learn new high-quality skills at work, fuelling innovation, and providing high-quality entry pathways for young people. We have also established a new body, Skills England, which will help shape the wider training offer and meet the country's skills needs.

Yours sincerely,

**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith**
**Minister for Skills**