



Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng, MP

Minister of State for Business, Clean Energy and Growth at BEIS

Your ref: MCB2020/23169

20/11/20

Dear Kwasi Kwarteng

Making the connection between green skills and jobs

Thank you for the reply to our letter titled '**Training and skills: Implementing the Committee on Climate Change Report**' dated July 2nd 2020.

We have had the opportunity to look at the BEISS response to the CCC report that you mention in your letter. We have also noted the recent announcements establishing the Green Jobs Taskforce and the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution.

We welcome these developments but feel that there are still serious weaknesses in the current strategy for green skills and jobs. The GJA has issued a statement that covers these concerns and identifies some of the opportunities for addressing them. The statement is available on this link:

<https://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/breaking-news-2/>

The Government's press release for the 'Green Industrial Revolution Plan' refers to '**250,000 highly-skilled green jobs**'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-outlines-his-ten-point-plan-for-a-green-industrial-revolution-for-250000-jobs>

This is the only reference to skills in the plan and the accompanying text. Surely the GIR Plan needs to spell this out otherwise the long-standing concerns about the disconnect between skills and industrial strategy will remain. The Taskforce has been given the challenge of drawing up immediate and long-term skills plans. This is, of course something that should have been done years ago, and unless these plans are adequately financed and mainstreamed into economic policy the widely acknowledged skills gap that exists in the UK will continue. None of the 10 actions in the GIR plan will be achieved without the creation of a skilled workforce.

Question 1. Why is there no reference to skills in the Ten Point Green Industrial Revolution Plan?

There also appears to be a disconnect in the numbers with the Taskforce press release referring to the creation of **2 million** green jobs compared to the **250,000** in the Green Industrial Revolution Plan.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-launches-taskforce-to-support-drive-for-2-million-green-jobs-by-2030>

Question 2. Can you provide an explanation for these 2 different projections?

A clear legislative framework that complements the Climate Change Act, and enforceable by regulatory authorities, is needed. In November, the National Audit Office Report 'Achieving Government's long-term environmental goals,' reported that '*there are indications that **skills and resources gaps** could inhibit government's progress in achieving its environmental ambitions.*'

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Achieving-governments-long%E2%80%91term-environmental-goals-Summary.pdf>

Question 3. How will BEIS respond to the concerns outlined in this report?

We echo the call of education unions and student organisations for a Climate Emergency Education Act.

<https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/11134/UCU-NEU-NUS-and-Teach-the-Future-issue-joint-statement-on-Prime-Ministers-10-point-green-plan?list=1676>

In addition, we feel the following 7 actions are required if the Government ambition of net-zero is to be achieved

- a skills policy that is properly funded and built on a long-term strategy of quality apprenticeships and upskilling of the current and future workforce
- co-ordinated local, regional, national and sector frameworks in the development of jobs for the future
- full union engagement in policy development and delivery to ensure a just transition at different levels and sectors of the economy. We welcome the appointment of 2 trade union representatives to the national taskforce but are concerned at the lack of representation on other key bodies
- introduction of a legal right to appoint trade union green reps in the workplace.
- restoration of support for the Unionlearn fund
- comprehensive changes to procurement and supply chain policies to ensure the potential for local employment growth is maximised, and that is based on union recognition and decent terms and conditions of employment
- a Green New Deal which supports local recovery models as part of an industrial strategy that is clearly aligned with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals

Question 4. How will BEIS promote a framework for effective worker engagement in the development of green jobs and skills at all levels - workplace, local, regional, sectoral, and national?

We would appreciate a response to the 4 questions highlighted above

Yours sincerely,



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