

Richard Pennycook
Interim Chair
Skills England
skills.england@education.gov.uk

Dear Mr Pennycook

Funding of Level 7 Accountancy and Taxation Apprenticeship

I am writing to express our grave concern about the Government's proposal to restrict funding of Level 7 apprenticeships.

I am the [insert job title e.g. staff partner at in [state location]. We are a local employer and provide apprenticeships for [school leavers at Level 3 and 4 in Accountancy, and then we offer them progression to the Level 7 Accountancy and Taxation Apprenticeship / straight onto the Level 7 apprenticeship from school or university/ some school leavers and some graduates as a combination of progression or direct recruitment.]

My view is that the government's new plans to restrict levy funding of Level 7 apprenticeships will widen the skills gap in [insert area] and harm our local economy.

This is the likely impact any change in funding for Level 7 Accountancy and Taxation Apprenticeships will have on our business:

- 1) We will not be able to offer as many jobs to young people in [insert area] without the availability of Level 7 funding. We currently provide [] apprenticeships and our apprentices start with us between the ages of [and].
- 2) We will not attract as many ambitious candidates, who want to be Level 7 Apprentices. The Level 7 Accountancy apprenticeship is a force for good in terms of social mobility and aspiration.
- 3) We will not have the skills and behaviours provided for our young employees, which they benefit so much from at Level 7. For example, our Level 7 apprenticeship provider, helps develop our learners' communication skills, leadership skills, problem solving skills, mind fitness and resilience, and confidence in public speaking. These are all skills and qualities we need our employees to have, which form part of the Level 7 apprenticeship.
- 4) Our Level 7 apprentices avoid student debt but still are able to reach professional level, and thereby better advise our clients and contribute themselves to the economy through their higher tax status.
- 5) We provide opportunities to a wide range of young people. Contrary to some press coverage, the Level 7 accountancy apprenticeship is not taken by middle class kids with pushy parents. We are helping local young people whose parents haven't gone to university, who have had challenges in life and who now have an opportunity through the

Level 7 apprenticeship to flourish. By taking away the funding, you in fact restrict opportunity in [insert area] which seems counter to the Government's stated missions on growth, opportunity and levelling up.

- 6) Our former L7 apprentices flourish: because of the L7 apprenticeship, they have gone on to become....

This is what one of my current Level 7 Accountancy apprentices said: [insert quote...e.g.

" I couldn't afford to go to university, so the Level 7 Accountancy apprenticeship has transformed my life as I can now reach my potential without student debt."

We ask Skills England and the Government to reconsider your plans as announced and not restrict the funding for Level 7 Accountancy and Taxation Apprentices.

Yours sincerely

Include Job Title
Company name