

Ms Hina Bokhari AM
Chair, Economy Committee
London Assembly
City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
London, E16 1ZE

20 September 2022

Dear Ms Bokhari,

ECONOMY COMMITTEE'S SCRUTINY OF THE GLA'S ADULT EDUCATION RESPONSIBILITIES

May I thank you for inviting the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) to provide evidence to your committee.

On behalf of LCCI, may we provide this additional submission for the consideration of you and the committee.

As my colleague and representatives from the further education sector and Toynbee Hall stated on 7 September, flexible and agile learning is critical if we are to witness a step change in improving skills levels across our city. The period of training provision which was rooted in set times and locations does not meet the needs of learners or businesses in the 2020s.

There has been a range of models that has been developed to ensure flexible and agile learning via modular training programmes are effective and are accredited. Alongside this requirement, we believe that adult training provision needs to be more integrated into the R&D work which takes place in the capital.

In particular, consideration should be given as to how we can link more effectively the training of people for a range of technical skills to the Government's Innovate UK agency. Innovate UK support business-led innovation in all sectors and technologies in London by helping businesses grow through the development and commercialisation of new products, processes and services.

During the evidence sessions to the London Assembly on 7/8 September, the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills rightly stated that adult education funding had to be evidence based when answering question relating to green skills. We believe this evidence base would be enhanced if the clear R&D needs of businesses can be more directly linked to the technical training provision that Londoners and London businesses need.

Innovate UK's London operations can provide that link with the R&D requirements of the capital's businesses linked to the further provision of technical skills training which are required to meet these R&D requirements.

This level of co-operation would help enhance productivity rates in London. We need to end the silo working patterns in the public sector and link more effectively R&D and training provision. These two issues are interlinked if we want to ensure the creation of high quality skilled green jobs across London.

Finally, may I draw to your attention the evidence base that we have produced to show that businesses are seeking workers with technical green skills.

Savanta ComRes were commissioned to question a cross section of large firms and SMEs across inner and outer London as to the skills and training needs of London businesses. When it came to the skills gaps that firms were enduring this included the following:

Firms who said they did not have access to all the skills necessary to reduce their carbons emissions (n=338) – What types of skills does your business need to help reduce carbon emissions?

Recycling collection/ treatment	27%
Green finance	19%
Energy economics/ management/ conservation	18%
Monitoring of energy processes	17%
Power/ energy engineering	16%
Green procurement	14%
Building maintenance/ services	11%
Pollution/ pollution control	11%
Building construction/ operations	10%
Environmental protection/ conservation	8%
Green social sciences	6%
Mechanical engineering	2%
Other	6%
Don't know	23%

For ease, I have highlighted in bold the skills-sets which is relevant for retrofitting.

We strongly back the Mayor's net zero target by 2030. We welcome the strong and positive actions of the Greater London Authority to ensure our capital is a sustainable city. However, it is also our assessment that if we do not address the skills gaps which London firms have identified then it may be difficult for London to reach net zero by 2030.

May I thank you and the committee for your consideration of this submission.

Yours sincerely



Richard Burge
Chief Executive