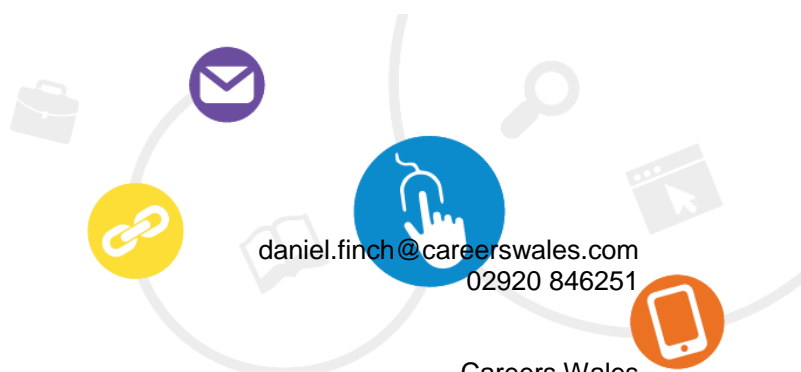




Please contact: Daniel Finch

Russell George AM
Chair
Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA



Careers Wales
53 Charles Street
Cardiff
CF10 2GD

13 October 2017

Dear Chair,

Re Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee – Scrutiny of the Minister for Skills and Science. 27th September 2017

Further to the Committee's recent scrutiny of the Minister for Skills and Science, Julie James AM, I thought it would be helpful to clarify a number of points that were made in relation to Careers Wales.

As the Minister noted in her evidence to the Committee, the agreed vision for careers services in Wales, '[Changing Lives](#) – A Vision for Careers Wales', builds on the recommendations of the independent strategic review undertaken by PwC. The review considered international evidence on the provision of careers services alongside the economic and policy context in Wales and feedback from stakeholders.

We welcome the Welsh Government's recognition of the pivotal role that Careers Wales will play in the delivery of Welsh Government programmes including Working Wales. Using technology to extend access and engage users is a key priority of Changing Lives. The successful implementation of our Digital Transformation Strategy, which considers the way we work, the skills that staff need, the infrastructure and technology we use across the organisation and how we can use data to support clients and partner organisations, is crucial to the delivery and development of our services.

During the meeting members of the committee referred to the recent Estyn report "Careers: The implementation of the careers and work framework in secondary schools", comments made by committee members included criticism of Careers Wales.

Estyn's criticism was not of Careers Wales but of the delivery of the framework in schools. The main findings conclude that "the majority of schools have not responded effectively to reductions in the support offered by Careers Wales". The "reductions" refer to the level of support for pupils with the report noting only a few schools ensure that all Key Stage 4 pupils have an interview to discuss their options. The report also concludes that the implementation of Careers and World of Work (CWoW) framework is varied in terms of standards, time allocation and provision and raises concerns over the reduction in the opportunity for pupils to access work focused experiences, with schools citing the withdrawal of the Careers Wales work experience database as one of the reasons for this.



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Whilst the change in our remit and budget has resulted in a change in our offer to schools, it is important we clarify that the delivery of this service is not a requirement of the remit or the responsibility of Careers Wales and that these issues are the responsibility of the schools.

Moving forward, 'Changing Lives – A Vision for Careers Wales' provides clear direction on our service offer for schools.

Changing Lives includes the potential for the development and delivery of services which address a number of issues referred to in the report. These include:

- (f) A new Offer for schools and pupils** – the development of the careers discovery model will widen access through both our face to face and digital services.
- (g) Education Business Exchange** – facilitating the link between business and schools.
- (h) Introduce the role of Careers Leaders in schools**
- (i) Provide CPD support for Careers Leaders in schools** -we are currently working in partnership with the Career Development Institute (CDI) to pilot the delivery of the Certificate in Careers Leadership. The first cohort of teachers from the ERW region started the qualification on September 26th 2017, with a proposed completion date of July 2018.
- (j) Introduce a new Careers and the World of Work framework, based on career management skills, as part of the *Successful Futures* curriculum**
- (k) Formally adopt the Gatsby benchmarks**
- (l) Introduce a new Careers Wales 'Mark' or 'Excellence in Careers Education Award' combining the new career management skills framework and Gatsby benchmarks**

We hope you have found this information useful and would welcome further discussion on our proposals. Our marketing manager, Dan Finch, could arrange a meeting at your convenience. His contact details are Daniel.finch@careerswales.com / 02920 846251

We look forward to continuing our close working relationship with the Welsh Government, National Assembly for Wales and supporting the development of a world class, careers and work framework for Wales.

Yours sincerely,

Debra Evans-Williams
Chair, Career Choices Dewis Gyrfa

