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**Economy**  
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# ***The continuing contribution of NOS skills development***

Federation of Awarding Bodies  
Conference

21 October 2016



# Do Standards really matter?

- UKCES reported employers value National Occupational Standards and in particular:
- The transferable skills NOS provides to labour; and
- NOS provide a wider pool of candidates with greater talents underpinned by regulated qualifications



# The Economic contribution of Standards to the UK Economy

2015 - Centre for Economics and Business Research and commissioned by British Standards Industry:

- standards boost UK productivity and improve performance, kick-start innovation, and support UK domestic and international trade;
- £8.2 billion is the amount that standards contribute to the UK economy;
- 37.4% of UK productivity growth can be attributed to standards;
- 28.4% of annual UK GDP growth can be attributed to standards, equivalent to £8.2 billion; and
- £6.1 billion of additional UK exports per year can be attributed to standards

## The Economic Contribution of Standards to the UK Economy (cont'd)



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The most productive sectors use standards the most:

- aerospace and defence increased productivity by 20.1% between 2005 and 2014, while the UK average was 4.9%;
- The food and drink manufacturing sector saw an increase in turnover by £10.2 billion per year through its use of standards; and
- Standards increased total turnover across seven sectors studied by £33.3 billion per year.

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## City & Guilds – Sense & Sensibility

- 8 major reports and policy papers – Sainsbury and Post 16
- Since 1981 28 major Acts re development, organisation and structure of vocational, training and FE
- Machinery of Government six ministries & 61 Ministers
- Agencies
- Programmes and initiatives – YTS, TOPs, YT etc

Additional requirements from the Devolved Administrations

A constant cross generational, inter-governmental feature– National Occupational Standards – okay Awarding Bodies have also been a constant



# Sainsbury Report & Post 16 Skills Report (England only)

## Case for Technical Reform

- There are now around 1,300 employers involved in developing new apprenticeship standards. Our reforms to technical education can be expected to increase employer engagement further by ensuring that standards and curricula are much more responsive to the needs of both employers and the general labour market.
- The technical option will be made up of 15 clear routes leading to skilled employment which requires technical knowledge and practical skills valued by industry. Panels of professionals will take the lead in setting the standards for each route to ensure that they deliver the skills needed by the economy, helping low-skilled workers to progress to the intermediate- and higher- level skilled positions that drive productivity, and minimising the number of people entering the labour market without useful skills and qualifications.



## Devolved Administrations' Policy

Scottish and Welsh Governments and Northern Ireland Executive are individually and collectively committed:

- to maintaining National Occupational Standards (NOS) for the public good of learners, employers and associated users across the United Kingdom: and
- as a valuable mechanism for ensuring that vocational/ professional and technical education, training and qualifications equip the workforce with the skills the economy requires.

The three Devolved Administrations are seeking to promote the benefits of NOS:

- as a recognised benchmark and definition of job roles;
- continuing to reflect the needs of employers;
- a proven facility for employers to inform qualifications;
- to facilitate employee mobility by occupational competence; and
- to support the identification of gaps in provision and subsequent development of fit-for-purpose provision.

# Devolved Administrations' Commitments



The three Devolved Administrations are committed to:

- continued use of national occupational standards to define the industry recognised specification of occupational competence for each occupation in the UK;
- A national occupational standard will be set at the level of 'occupation';
- National occupational standards will carry an overarching occupational descriptor compatible with the Trailblazer standard in England and be designed according to a new flexible model that accommodates more generic and transferable skills as well as job specific skills;
- New employer-led approach to designing, maintaining and quality assuring national occupational standards will be introduced; and
- NOS will be made more accessible to their wide range of users.

A communication strategy to promote the benefits and continued value added by National Occupational Standards to the UK economy.





# NOS – Way Forward

- The Devolved Administrations are committed to:
- Maintain, update and improve the NOS Database;
- Commission Standards and Frameworks 2017/18;
- Review & Update the NOS Strategy to provide a fresh five year strategy; and
- Develop a Communication Strategy for users and stakeholders across the United Kingdom



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Thank you