

### **Will the ECITB and CITB form a single body?**

At present there are no plans to legislate to combine the two Industry Training Boards, as the recommendation to form a single body was only partially accepted by Government. A steering group consisting of a number of Government Departments and both ITBs will be set up to look at the possible implementation of all recommendations. The work to scope potentially combining the two ITBs will take time, so nothing is currently certain, and it would be wrong to pre-empt the outcome.

The outcome could range from voluntary joint working through to creating a single body. In the meantime, the Minister has requested greater and enhanced collaboration between the ECITB and CITB on specific areas where we can support each other and where there is crossover between our work. The specific areas are:

1. Infrastructure across Great Britain
2. Increasing trainer and assessor numbers
3. Clean energy jobs
4. Skills passporting

Both ITBs are committed to working more closely together and this work has already begun in earnest on a voluntary basis. The ECITB is already working with the CITB in several areas including strategic skills planning for Sizewell C.

The Government will spend the next 12 months working with the ITBs to scope the different ways of implementing the most complex recommendations in the review, including options for greater alignment.

All of this will need to be carried out before final policy decisions can be made on whether to fully accept and implement the recommendations. Whatever the outcome of this scoping, it will not be an overnight change. It will take detailed planning to formalise any potential alignment.

### **How long will the scoping of the recommendations take?**

We cannot give an exact timescale at this stage, but we expect this exercise to take place over the next 12 months and will be led by DfE. Whatever the outcome of this scoping, it will take detailed planning to formalise any alignment and at present there is no plan to legislate to combine the two ITBs.

### **How closely involved will the ECITB be in the scoping process?**

Very closely. We shared our detailed response to the recommendations with Ministers last year and since then have closely engaged with officials on the form that closer collaboration and alignment might take. As a member of the steering group, we will be involved in how to implement all recommendations within the report. We have also started work with the CITB to develop plans to collaborate on infrastructure (e.g. Sizewell C) and increasing trainers and assessors.

### **Are we going to pause the development and publication of the next strategy until we know the outcome of the scoping exercise?**

No. The ECITB Board was clear that we should not wait.

We have a duty to industry to continue the vital work we do in attracting new entrants, expanding the entry pathways into industry and supporting high-quality training provision. And we want to be bold in our ambition.

We are also reflecting ideas and recommendations from the review in our draft strategic plan, on which we will consult with industry in Spring. This includes the work we are doing in collaboration with the CITB.

### **Are we going to pause Consensus until we know more about how the recommendations will be implemented? And will the levy rate change?**

No. The Department for Education has been clear that we should continue with Consensus as normal.

Every three years, we are required by law to consult on levy rates for the following three-year period. The next consultation (levy consensus) will take place later this year and ties in with the timetable of creating the revised strategy for the ECITB which will cover the period 2026-2030. Industry will be involved in any discussion on changes to future levy rates.

### **Will grants or funding support be reduced?**

There are no plans to reduce ECITB's support to industry. On the contrary, the Board has outlined an ambitious and bold draft strategy on which we will consult industry in the Spring. This includes scaling up and transforming our work to drive up skills in the industry, and therefore is likely to involve more funding being disbursed towards strategic initiatives.

Across the course of our three-year strategy, we will have committed more than £87m to supporting industry. This includes £73 million towards training grants, of which two thirds are expected to fund ongoing training, upskilling and reskilling, while the remaining third supports new entrants in the sector.

Every year we review the amount to be allocated towards training grants versus support of new entrants or other priorities such as boosting training provider capacity through industrial skills hub funding.

### **If the ITB Review has confirmed that the ITBs should be retained, why are we now also going to Consensus?**

The purposes of the ITB Review and Consensus are very different. The future direction and performance of the ITBs is the purpose of the ITB Review, whereas Consensus has a much narrower purpose, which is to understand the level of support from Levy paying employers for the proposed Levy generating arrangements for a three-year period.