



The Rt Hon Baroness Smith of Malvern
Minister for Skills
Department for Work and Pensions
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London, SW1H 9NA

via email

11 August 2026

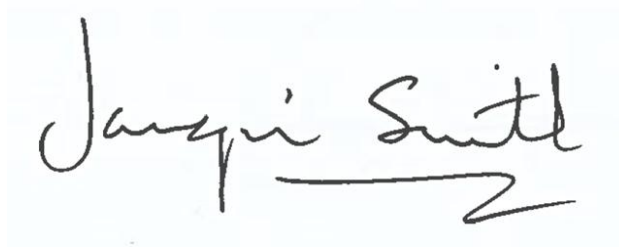
Dear Members of the Construction Coalition and Skills England Construction Taskforce,

I am writing to thank you personally for the invaluable and constructive contributions you have been making with Skills England to ensure the successful implementation of Apprenticeship Assessment Reform in apprenticeships in the Construction & Built Environment sector.

We understand that any significant change to how apprenticeships work will bring complex challenges that depend upon close collaboration between officials and industry partners. As members of the Construction Coalition and Skills England's Construction Taskforce you have been instrumental in identifying those challenges, advocating strongly for action, and, most importantly of all, co-developing the solutions that can help ensure the requirements of industry are secured alongside the benefits of the reforms. You have given your time, expertise and critical friendship with immense generosity over a considerable period of time, sharply focused on a shared desire to optimise the apprenticeship system in ways that streamline unnecessary complexity, while maintaining and extending the confidence of industry and learners in training and assessment for these safety-critical occupations. Your contributions have also helped ensure that reforms support the continued competence of the workforce and retain employers' confidence that apprenticeships produce individuals who can perform safely, effectively and to the high professional standards required across the Construction & Built Environment sector.

Officials at Skills England have reported to me their appreciation for the spirit and passion that have imbued your collaboration. To this, I want to add my own thanks. With the round of test cases now almost completed, it will be possible to apply the lessons learned and approaches tested to reformed assessment plans across other apprenticeships.

At their heart, successful apprenticeships depend on strong collaboration between industry, training providers, assessment organisations and government. I am very grateful to you all for the contribution you are making to ensuring that collaboration happens, and that it yields great outcomes for employers, learners and the economy.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature reads 'Jacqui Smith' in a cursive script, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

The Rt Hon Baroness Smith of Malvern
Minister for Skills