



THE INSTITUTE OF CONSERVATION

## Department for Education: Higher Technical Education consultation

1 September 2019

Icon response

P19

**Question: Would you support incorporating the above flexibilities/requirements in the Institute approval process, and are there any specific points you would like to raise in relation to the above?**

Icon strongly supports the proposed flexibility.

While occupational standards have been developed by employers, the employers and standards do not necessarily fully reflect the breadth of a sector. For example, the heritage sector does not neatly fit into just one area. The option for broader qualifications with additional content extending a single occupational standard could help meet the needs of sectors that are particularly interconnected.

Furthermore, qualifications that are broader and give a solid foundation in a range of subjects would also reflect modern careers more strongly. Careers evolve and develop: qualifications within cultural heritage can lead to employment sectors that are not necessarily associated with the qualification. For example, a conservation student could gain employment within the construction industry.

P32

**Question: To what extent do you agree that there is a need and opportunity for more young people and adults (including those who need to upskill/retrain) to be undertaking HTE in the future? Please provide examples from your own experience.**

Icon agrees with the statement.

There are considerable numbers of career changers within the cultural heritage conservation sector, with people pursuing a career in conservation at a later age. There is an opportunity for HTE to provide these people with a route into the profession. However, older learners will be keen to progress to employment more quickly. It will be important to communicate the benefits of employer-designed content and how it supports employability.

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**Question: To what extent do you agree with these measures to improve the profile of HTE?**

We welcome the involvement of professional bodies. As key links to employers and the workforce, professional bodies can play a pivotal role in communicating HTE options and benefits.

**Question: To what extent do you agree with these measures to improve information, advice and guidance (IAG) for young people, adults and employers?**

Icon welcomes the involvement of professional bodies. Their established communication channels to employers and the workforce can help disseminate information about HTE to target audiences.

[https://consult.education.gov.uk/higher-technical-level-4-5-review-team/higher-technical-education/supporting\\_documents/Improving\\_higher\\_technical\\_education%20pdf.pdf](https://consult.education.gov.uk/higher-technical-level-4-5-review-team/higher-technical-education/supporting_documents/Improving_higher_technical_education%20pdf.pdf)

Consistency in the supply of IAG is needed, particularly for sectors with many different job roles and focuses. This could be achieved through a multi-agency approach where the different agencies supplying IAG conform to uniform messages. An accessible, user-friendly and employer-focused database of all qualifications, that enables users to conduct searches based on course content, could improve enrolments across more specialist and unknown fields.