



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Richard Lambert
Chief Executive
National Hair & Beauty Federation
One Abbey Court
Fraser Road
Priory Business Park
Bedford
MK44 3WH

16 June 2022

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your letter of 26 April and for enclosing the National Hair & Beauty Federation's (NHBF) report 'Careers at the cutting edge'. Please accept my apologies for not responding sooner.

I was interested to read about what measures the NHBF has taken to address the skills gap within the sector. The report also expressed a dissatisfaction with apprenticeships and advocated for changes to the system that might better suit your sector.

As a job with high-quality training attached, the Government considers apprenticeships as an important opportunity for people of all ages and at all stages of their careers. That is why, at Spending Review 2021, we announced that apprenticeships funding will rise to £2.7bn in 2024-25, to support high-quality apprenticeships in large and small businesses.

We continue to introduce improvements to the apprenticeships system to ensure that apprenticeships meet the needs of employers. These include providing further support for flexible training models and introducing a new enhanced recruitment service for small and mid-size enterprises. Alongside these improvements, it is important that the sector works closely with the Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education (IfATE) to establish and update the relevant apprenticeship standards and ensure that they continue to best serve the needs of employers and apprentices alike.

In respect to the Further Education training route, the new T Level in Hairdressing, Barbering and Beauty Therapy - developed in collaboration with employers and businesses - will be introduced from September 2023. The T Level qualification offers students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on the job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours. The T Level will prepare students for work, further training or study, and provide them with the head-start they need in their careers.

The hair and beauty businesses continue to play an important role in our highstreets and communities throughout the UK. This highly creative and entrepreneurial hair and beauty services industry delivers over £8 billion to the UK economy, provides social value, and its services and products improve health and wellbeing.

I understand that representatives of NHBF have recently met with officials from the Department of Business, Energy & Industry to further discuss these matters in detail and I encourage you to continue to engage with them as the lead Government department for your sector.

Thank you for taking the time to draw my attention to the issues raised in the HHBF report, and your organisation's commitment to the businesses you represent.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Helen Whately', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Helen Whately
EXCHEQUER SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY