

**Policy Forum for Northern Ireland keynote seminar**  
**Next steps for skills and apprenticeships in Northern Ireland**

*Timing: Morning, Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021*

**\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\***

*Draft agenda subject to change*



- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Stewart Dickson MLA**, Alliance Party Economy Spokesperson and Member, Committee for the Economy
- 9.05 **Key priorities for skills in Northern Ireland in the wake of the pandemic**  
**Graeme Wilkinson**, Director of Skills, Department for the Economy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 Break
- 9.40 **Up-skilling the workforce in the current climate - priorities for businesses and sectors, funding, and the role of City and Growth Deals**  
**Ken Webb**, Principal and Chief Executive, South Eastern Regional College; and Chair, NI FE College Principals' Group  
**Mary Meehan**, Deputy Chief Executive, Manufacturing NI  
**Ivy McFarlane**, Business Development Director, AquaQ Analytics (pre-recorded presentation)  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 Break
- 10.45 **Priority growth areas for investing in skills and supporting post-pandemic recovery**  
**Jackie Henry**, Chair, Skills Strategy Advisory Group; and Senior Partner, Deloitte Northern Ireland
- 10.55 **Focus areas for addressing skills shortages in Northern Ireland**  
*Keeping up with digital skills and preparing for future needs*  
**Julian David**, CEO, techUK  
*Boosting skills and innovation for the creative sectors*  
**Dr Declan Keeney**, Director, Ulster Screen Academy, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Ulster University  
*Upskilling the NI workforce for the green transition*  
**Gordon Parkes**, HR Director, NIE Networks  
*Key priorities for supporting the construction workforce*  
**Gavin McGuire**, Northern Ireland Director, Federation of Master Builders  
*Next steps for strengthening the overseas talent pipeline in NI*  
**Philip McNally**, Manager, Corporate Immigration and Employment Law, KPMG Ireland
- 11.20 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 Break
- 11.50 **Inspecting the delivery of apprenticeships and best practice**  
**John Kennedy**, Inspector of Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering, Education and Training Inspectorate  
**Dr Margaret Duddy**, Inspector of Construction and Engineering, Education and Training Inspectorate
- 12.00 **Next steps for apprenticeships - widening access and supporting lifelong learning, driving up standards, and supporting the workforce**  
**Richard Kirk**, CEO and Founder, Workplus  
**Terry Fennell**, Chief Executive, FDQ  
**Professor Terri Scott**, Principal and Chief Executive, Northern Regional College  
**Maggy McCartney**, HR and Health & Safety Manager, Fleming Agri  
**Lynne Rainey**, Forensics Partner, Place & Purpose Leader for Northern Ireland, PwC
- 12.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**  
**Stewart Dickson MLA**, Alliance Party Economy Spokesperson and Member, Committee for the Economy  
**Helen Crocker**, Forum Lead, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland