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Y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Sgiliau a Phartneriaeth Gymdeithasol
Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref CSE/OQ/81025

Mark Isherwood MS

10 November 2025

Dear Mark

Construction apprenticeships in Wales

In plenary on 8 October, you asked the Cabinet Secretary for Education about apprenticeships in Wales; in particular, you expressed concern about the number of construction apprenticeship starts. I am replying as the Minister responsible for skills. Further to your remarks in the Senedd, I would like to confirm that there has been no reduction in the apprenticeship budget over the term of this Welsh Government. In fact, since 2020-21 annual funding for apprenticeships in Wales has increased from £128m to £144m this year, even though ESF funding came to an end in 2024-25.

I am of course aware of the concerns expressed by the construction industry about the lack of level 2 apprenticeships in Wales and as such I have listened to calls from industry, stakeholders, providers and learners to reintroduce a level 2 apprenticeship framework to meet growing skills demands within the sector. As a result, I have asked Medr and Qualifications Wales to bring forward proposals for new level 2 construction apprenticeship qualifications and framework to be introduced as early as possible. Discussions are ongoing but I hope to make an announcement in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Sargeant AS/MS
Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership
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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.