

WRITTEN MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

JOHN HAYES, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FURTHER EDUCATION, SKILLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING, DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

REVIEW INTO THE STATUS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF SKILLS FUNDING AND THE SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

20 DECEMBER 2011

Further to my announcement on 1 November, I would inform Parliament about the outcome of the review into the status of the Chief Executive of Skills Funding and the Skills Funding Agency.

The review has concluded that the existing arrangement of a statutory post holder should be replaced with a more traditional Executive Agency model. This is consistent with the Government's wider commitment to radically improve the transparency and accountability for all public services, providing clarity and focus to the work of the Agency and ensuring that skills and apprenticeship programmes are delivered within an overarching strategic framework set by government.

The Skills Funding Agency will continue to play a vital role in funding the education and skills training that our country needs to tackle the very real challenges that lie ahead; and the outcome of this review reflects the Government's ongoing commitment to building on the strength of the further education system, whilst ensuring rigorous accountability structures are in place.

I can confirm that both the Skills Funding Agency and wider stakeholders have been fully engaged in the review process, and I will be writing to them today about the outcome of this work.

We will bring forward legislation for this change as and when Parliamentary time allows.