

Atif Rafique
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

31/8/2010

Dear Atif Rafique,

Skills for Sustainable Growth (SSG)

I am responding to the current Skills for Sustainable Growth consultation on behalf of ALT and the eLearning Network (eLN). ALT and eLN are both membership organisations with a focus on the use of technology in learning and teaching.

ALT is a registered charity. eLN is a community interest company. BIS is a long-standing member of ALT. The eLN and ALT web sites are at <http://www.elearningnetwork.org/> and <http://www.alt.ac.uk/>.

Our response is brief and concerns a single cross-cutting issue.

We recognise that SSG is inevitably neutral about the “delivery techniques” used by providers of training and/or information, advice and guidance. But, that said, we are surprised at the almost complete absence in SSG of any references to technology enabled learning or to the Internet and the Web as central components in the infrastructure for vocational education and training, and for informal learning. We think that this represents a missed opportunity.

We propose the introduction of an additional principle to those listed in paragraphs seven to nine of SSG, along these lines:

“The efficiency and effectiveness of the whole of the skills system (including training delivery, informal learning, partnership working between employers and training providers, and the provision of and access to advice and guidance) is dependent on astute use of information and communications technologies, and in particular, of the Internet and the Web.”

The inclusion of such a principle would make explicit the Coalition Government’s belief in the important of role of learning technologies in education and training, and it would encourage the main actors in the skills system to give appropriate emphasis to ICT in the policies and plans that flow from the SSG consultation.

If advice is needed on how an additional principle along the lines suggested is given concrete expression elsewhere in the SSG we would be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely,



Seb Schmoller
On behalf of ALT and the eLearning Network

Registered Charity No: 1063519

Central Executive Committee: Liz Bennett, Haydn Blackey, John Cook, Linda Creanor, David Dyet, Carol Higginson, Liz Masterman, Dick Moore, John Phelps, Fred Pickering, Steve Ryan, Gilly Salmon Nicola Whitton.

ALT Ambassadors*: Dame Wendy Hall DBE FREng FRS, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southampton; Terry Mayes, Emeritus Professor at Glasgow Caledonian University; John Taylor, Principal of Doncaster College, and past member of JISC and Chair of the Becta Board.

* Ambassadors provide informal advice to ALT on matters within their area of interest, and act as advocates for ALT.

Registered address:

Gipsy Lane
Headington
Oxford OX3 0BP, UK
Phone: + 44 (0)1865 484125
Fax: + 44 (0)1865 484165
Email: admin@alt.ac.uk
<http://www.alt.ac.uk>