

Kemi Badenoch MP
Minister of State for Equalities and Levelling Up Communities
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

7th February 2022

Regulatory Services Apprenticeships Funding Bid

Dear Ms Badenoch

Thank you for your response, dated 20th December 2021, to our letter to the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, regarding the issue of funding for local government regulatory apprenticeships following the announcement of the Spending Review in October 2021.

We hope that you are aware that this is National Apprenticeship Week, with both CTSI and CIEH actively supporting the initiative to promote apprenticeships and the sustainability of regulatory professions.

Regulatory Compliance Officer (RCO) apprenticeships are crucial for introducing both young people and experienced individuals to essential roles in the local government workforce. We remain disappointed that the recommendation to establish a bursary programme for local authority regulatory apprenticeships has not been delivered. This recommendation was made by the UK Government's own Cross Government Regulatory Review 2021, the creation of which was directed by Cabinet, following concerns about the capacity and resilience of the local government regulatory workforce.

Local government regulatory services are the front line of public protection - ensuring citizens have safe houses to live in, that food and products are safe to consume and use, and that in times of national crises such as avian flu and global pandemics they are there to respond.

CTSI's own analysis, based on consultations among its professional membership of frontline trading standards professionals across the country is that the situation is at a critical juncture - if investment is not made soon then there will be no competent officers available to deliver these essential trading-standards services.

This feedback from professionals on the ground is mirrored amongst the membership on CIEH. Tasked with delivering essential services to uphold food, housing, and environmental standards, environmental

health professionals have made it abundantly clear that without proper support from government these services will begin to crumble. Most notably in the places where people need them most.

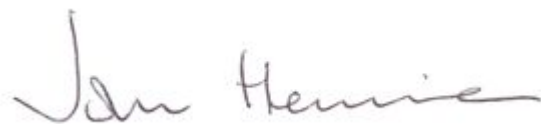
Your letter discusses the establishment of the National Regulator for Construction Products within BEIS. Both CTSI and CIEH are in regular dialogue with BEIS Ministers and officials and work closely with the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) which was selected as the new regulator. The same applies to the other policy departments and national regulators who rely on local government regulators to deliver their objectives and regulatory activities. The construction products example you cite is only one of several programmes.

We are deeply engaged with other policy-specific programmes – such as those relating to illicit tobacco, feed hygiene, food standards, and port health. While these programmes deliver worthwhile direct interventions, they do not contribute to ensuring a sustainable and competent local government workforce.

Our organisations wrote a joint-letter to Mr Gove, as the Secretary of State with responsibility for local government, as we wished to address our concerns to the department that we believe should be responsible for this cross-governmental issue. Unfortunately, your letter and the response to Parliamentary Question number 105329 did not provide us with the confidence that your department is adequately engaging with this issue or is fully appreciative of the need to find a workable solution as an absolute priority.

Both CIEH and CTSI are committed to assisting the UK Government in levelling up the country, and we welcome opening a dialogue with you to make sure that consumer protection is levelled up and that local government services are not hollowed out.

Yours sincerely,



John Herriman
Chief Executive
Chartered Trading Standards Institute



Phil James
Chief Executive
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health