

ARC NI Conference 17 May 2018 – Workshop delivered by Michael Gould, Department for the Economy

The attached Presentation ‘Scaling new heights through Apprenticeships’ was delivered at the workshop and during the workshop, questions were asked using an online tool called Mentimeter. This tool enabled those in attendance to anonymously answer a series of questions instantly using smart phones and opinions were shared on screen in a matter of seconds.

A short summary of the main questions and answers is as follows:

Q. Delegates were asked the question:-

“Why does your organisation not currently offer Apprenticeships?”

There were a total of 16 responses over 2 sessions.

The most common answers were **“a lack of awareness and a lack of knowledge.”**

Other delegates commented as follows:-

- Unaware how it could work, (in a low pay sector).
- Difficulty in introducing structures around it.
- Age restrictions usually focussed on younger people.

Q. Delegates were asked the question:-

“Why do you think some employers currently offer Apprenticeships?”

There were a total of 16 responses over 2 sessions.

The most common answers were **“as an aid to recruitment.”** Other delegates commented as follows:-

- Staff training to a high standard.
- Corporate social responsibility.
- Staff retention.
- Developing own talent to own standards and with own values.
- Structured approach to learning new skills.
- To invest in next generation and promote diversity.

Q. Delegates were asked the question:-

“How do I employ an Apprentice?”

There were a total of 12 responses over 2 sessions.

The majority of responses were “Don’t Know”. Other delegates commented as follows:-

- Advertise and recruit.
- Contact a training provider.
- Engage with the relevant government Department.
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Q. Delegates were asked the question:-

“How likely are you to employ an Apprentice in the future?”

There were a total of 13 responses over 2 sessions.

The majority of respondents indicated that they were “Keen to pursue with reservations”.

A total of 4 respondents were keen to pursue outright and only 1 expressed a reluctance to pursue.