

[News story: Transport industry leading the way in apprenticeships](#)

- almost 2,800 roads and rail apprentices started training in 2017 to 2018
- this represents a 22% increase on 2016 to 2017, with over 5,000 new apprentices having started their training since 2016
- Heathrow expansion will lead to 10,000 apprentices before 2030

The transport industry is leading the way in unlocking brilliant careers and tackling the need for the engineers of the future, the Skills and Apprenticeships Minister set out today (19 July 2018).

Commenting on the launch of industry's [Transport infrastructure skills strategy: two years on](#) report, Transport Minister Nusrat Ghani welcomed the 2,784 apprenticeships created in road and rail in the past year. She also reaffirmed the government's commitment to creating 30,000 apprenticeships in road and rail bodies and increased diversity of the transport workforce, with a strong focus on encouraging more women and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people into the industry.

The report shows more than 5,000 apprentices have begun training in road and rail sectors alone since 2016, demonstrating how significant government and private investment into projects across the country is helping to unlock brand new careers, upskilling the workforce and supporting social mobility.

This year the report shows:

- an additional 8,000 opportunities will be created every year in the express delivery sector
- training places for maritime cadets will rise to 1,200 over the next 7 years
- 10,000 apprenticeships as a result of an expanded Heathrow before 2030

Nusrat Ghani, Skills and Apprenticeships Minister, said:

This report shows that significant government investment in transport is playing a key role in creating life-changing opportunities through its high quality apprenticeships – helping us lead the way in unlocking new jobs and ensuring this country has the skilled workforce it needs for the future.

Although we are seeing evidence of better BAME representation in the sector, our ambitions are clear. From road to rail, maritime to aviation, we must all redouble our efforts to bring more women into technical and engineering roles, remove barriers, ensuring we bring talented people from all backgrounds together to tackle the skills gap.

We are committed to strengthening links between employers in our sector and young people, particularly in the creative, innovative world of engineering through our [Year of Engineering campaign](#). I look forward to even more apprentices starting brilliant careers in years to come.

Mike Brown MVO, Commissioner, Transport for London and chair of STAT, said:

The power of collaboration on skills from transport employers who are committed to creating more high quality skills and training opportunities for people of all ages has already provided great results across the sector.

The increase in transport apprenticeships is vital to addressing current skills shortages, helping to fill gaps in future skills, improving productivity and driving growth in Britain for the future.

Press release: Government seeks views on legal aid for inquests

- Call for evidence on legal aid provision for inquests
- Bereaved families and lawyers urged to share experiences
- Ongoing review to determine need for legal representation

Justice Minister Lucy Frazer today announced the launch of a call for evidence to consider the need for legal representation during inquests.

This is part of an ongoing review, which aims to establish whether changes need to be made to the current availability of legal aid to ensure bereaved families can fully understand and take part in inquests.

It will also consider how the system could be made more sympathetic to the needs of the bereaved, and the Government is keen to hear from all who have been affected by the inquest process.

Justice Minister Lucy Frazer said:

The inquest process can be extremely difficult and the Government is committed to ensuring that bereaved families can access the support they need.

That is why we are opening a call for evidence, to help determine

whether changes need to be made to the availability of legal aid for these cases.

We would encourage anyone who has been affected by the inquest process to share their experiences.

Today's call for evidence forms part of the evidence gathering stage of the review and builds on the department's recent work to make legal aid easier to obtain for death in custody cases.

The call for evidence will close on 31st August and the Government is seeking views from anyone who is involved or has been affected by the inquest process, including bereaved families and those who provide support to them at inquests, legal representatives and coroners.

This review will sit alongside the Post Implementation Review of the reforms made under LASPO and will report back later this year.

[Swaleside prison drug smuggler jailed after ULS referral](#)



A woman who attempted to smuggle drugs into a Kent prison has had her sentence increased after it was referred to the Court of Appeal for being too low.

Ayesha Hibbert, 28, was visiting Swaleside prison when she was spotted handing a package to an inmate. The package was later found to contain cannabis with a value of up to £2,400 if sold in prison. At the time this offence was carried out, Hibbert was already on licence for another drug-related offence.

Hibbert was originally sentenced at Southampton Crown Court in May, where she was given a 24 month community order. The Court of Appeal increased her sentence to 9 months' imprisonment.

Speaking after the hearing, Attorney General Geoffrey Cox QC MP said:

By introducing drugs into the prison system, Hibbert risked not only financing criminal organisations, but jeopardising inmate rehabilitation. This is a very serious offence, and I welcome the decision of the Court of Appeal that the interests of justice required an increase in the sentence.

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1. 11 July 2019 Swaledale corrected to Swaleside.
2. 19 July 2018 First published.

Notice: Notice of application for a drought permit: Windermere

TAKE NOTICE that due to the threat of a serious water shortage in the part of its water supply area served by Windermere, caused by an exceptional shortage of rain, United Utilities Water Limited (“the Company”) is applying to the Environment Agency for a drought permit under Section 79A of the Water Resources Act 1991.

Notice: Notice of application for a drought permit: Ullswater

TAKE NOTICE that due to the threat of a serious water shortage in the part of its water supply area served by Ullswater, caused by an exceptional shortage of rain, United Utilities Water LTD (“the Company”) is applying to the Environment Agency for a drought permit under Section 79A of the Water Resources Act 1991.