

## Drive Forward

in Motor Industry Skills Training - January  
2009

Welcome to the Motor Industry Skills e-newsletter. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We would like to send it to as many people and organisations as possible - if you know anyone who may like to receive it, please ask them to email [anns@motor.org.uk](mailto:anns@motor.org.uk) with their details.

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## Apprenticeship Expansion Programmes

New trials have just been announced aimed at developing Apprenticeship Expansion Programmes.



The trials aim to develop models to allow employers to recruit and train additional apprentices. Participating employers will have access to funding to meet additional costs such as wage, training and management costs. The new funding is available to large businesses and groups of small and medium sized businesses who have a track record of delivering high quality Apprenticeship programmes.

With the current economic slowdown it is vital to continue training staff to maintain productivity and a competitive edge. Apprenticeships are a key part of the post-16 education offer and will play a central role in the Government's plans for growing skills in the economy. The Government's intention is to increase the Apprenticeship opportunities available through employers already offering high-quality Apprenticeships. Funding of over £10 million has been made available over the next three years to offset the reasonable costs of supplying additional places.

Employers keen to take part in the trial can view the LSC prospectus [here](#). The prospectus identifies the aims and objectives of the trials, the principles, the funding and selection process, along with the timeline and application process. The closing date for submission of Expressions of Interest is **16 January 2009**.

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## NOS Update

Further to completion of the 1st stage consultation on many of the NOS suites under development a number of consultation events, both with employers and training providers have been held, including a Scottish Employers Forum on 25th November, an IMI Awards Ltd regional network meeting in Wales on 28th November, City & Guilds network event and a Scottish consultation forum for training providers. The feedback received is being considered by the NOS development team and respective expert working groups.

[Click here](#) to see an update on the current status of the NOS programme of work.

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## Training Quality Standard Achievers

Four out of six current achievers of the Training Quality Standard (TQS) for employers are automotive. Rolls-Royce UK Apprentice Training recently achieved this tough standard for employer in-house training following the successes earlier this year of Scania, Jaguar Land Rover and BMW. The employer version of the TQS is being developed following the successful roll out of the TQS for training providers and offers the same rigorous assessment and certification process.

Skillnet Ltd is the most recent achiever of the Training Quality Standard for training providers including Part B, which proves excellence in automotive skills training. To see the current list of organisations delivering training for the motor industry that have achieved both Part A and B, please go to the [Learning Provider](#) area of the IMI website.

Please go to [www.trainingqualitystandard.co.uk](http://www.trainingqualitystandard.co.uk) where, along with all certificated organisations lots more information can be found on the TQS assessment framework which has been designed to recognise and celebrate the best organisations, delivering training and development solutions to employers/customers. For any further information please contact Adrian Lawson Development Manager - Quality Improvement email: [adrianl@motor.org.uk](mailto:adrianl@motor.org.uk)

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## CPD Events and Industry Placements

Over 100 delegates attended successful technical training events in 2008 which included training from the VBRA, ADS and AK Training and included topics such as UHSS steels and Welding, Structural Adhesives and Riveting, CAN bus and associated systems, and Foundation Vehicle Electronics. The IMI are expanding the Train the Trainer programme for 2009 with further events from these organisations and others including Bosch and Honda.

For new training dates in February and April from ADS, and to keep up to date with further new events and dates please look [here](#)

In addition, the IMI is also supporting a number of industry placement schemes. These include UK wide, international and nation specific opportunities. The newly revised Business Interchange programme (England only) now includes a £1000 funding award per participant.

**New for 2009:** The IMI will also be working closely with the Learning and Skills

Improvement Service (LSIS) to include a work shadowing scheme for managers early in 2009 (England only).

To keep up to date with developments regarding these initiatives please click [here](#)

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### **CPD and Time in Industry for Assessors**

The Awarding Bodies working with the Sector Skills Council are exploring the new assessment strategy to see if it will be of value to employers and learners for internal assessors of competency based programmes to complete mandatory CPD. This is envisaged to be within their professional area and be a combination of technical upskilling and working in industry. If you have any views on what this CPD should be, please contact Rob Gray [robq@motor.org.uk](mailto:robq@motor.org.uk).

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### **Update on the Diploma in Retail Business**

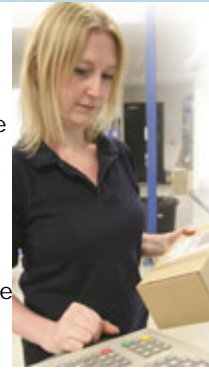
The introduction and successful implementation of the Diploma in Retail Business is one of the most significant and ground breaking developments in education and training for the last fifty years. The new qualification will benefit learners who will enjoy its engaging and innovative approach. Its emphasis on work related learning will help learners value the opportunities that retail businesses can offer, including automotive retail. The Diploma is also designed to benefit employers, who will be able to recruit keen and knowledgeable people, who understand retail and its supply chain. For more information please click [here](#). Also please go to <http://www.diploma-support.org/> and [http://www.qca.org.uk/qca\\_19364.aspx](http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_19364.aspx) or contact Lynne Johnson on [lynnej@motor.org.uk](mailto:lynnej@motor.org.uk)

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## **New ATA route - Parts Advisor**

The annual conference for the Automotive Distribution Federation (ADF) provided the platform for the launch of an accreditation route for Parts Advisors within the ATA scheme.

Following a pilot programme by the IMI, which regulates the ATA scheme, two levels applicable to technicians in the parts sector have been introduced: Parts Advisor and Senior Parts Advisor.



Accreditation in this discipline includes a series of practical assessments incorporating areas such as Communication, which measures candidates' interpersonal skills, Sales and Marketing, Vehicle Identification, picking the correct parts and dealing with those returned. During the one day assessment, candidates are also required to take an on-line knowledge test. Technicians considering ATA accreditation can take a self-assessment on the ATA web-site, [www.automotivetechician.org.uk](http://www.automotivetechician.org.uk)

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## **Review of Work Experience in Scotland**

The Scottish Government has published its Review of Work Experience in Scotland. The research aims to provide a snapshot of work experience provision in Scotland during 2008. The main findings included: Scotland has a commitment to providing universal access to work experience, an estimated 86% of S4 pupils taking part in work experience in 2007/08 and over 30,000 employers in Scotland host work placements.

[For more information click here ....](#)

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## Skills North West Event



Skills North West is taking place at Bolton Arena on 3 - 5 February 2009. This interactive event is aimed at young people aged 14-19 and is not a typical 'careers fair'. The event aims to inspire, inform and educate young people and their parents, carers and teachers about the options available to them, through an innovative approach. Exhibitors, including the IMI, will run hands-on demonstrations and activities in a fun and vibrant atmosphere.

Skills North West is supported by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the North West Regional Development Agency (NWDA). They are committed to increasing the skills base of the North West workforce, ensuring the economic development of the region with training, education and skills development meeting the needs of employers and individuals, so the region is competitive with a skilled and motivated workforce.

The NWDA is sponsoring an area within Skills North West specifically for teachers, providing the latest information about careers that can be passed onto students.

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## Highlights of 2008

The last year has been a momentous one for the IMI, our first full year as the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the automotive retail industry. Our role as the SSC compliments the IMI's existing role as the professional association for our sector.

In the current economic climate and difficult trading conditions, the need for competent, ethical individuals has never been more crucial to the future success of our industry.

The IMI has been working hard to assist employers in generating improvements in productivity and performance through a workforce which is better trained, qualified and recognised.

In February, we pledged an increase in the number of apprentices joining the sector by 2013. One of our key objectives is to raise the profile of apprenticeships and to draw attention to the value they bring to businesses.

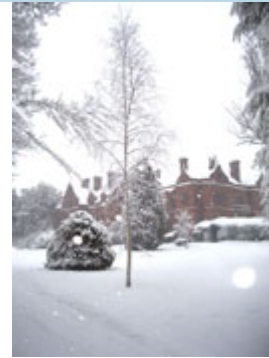
In April, the IMI exhibited for the first time at the Commercial Vehicle Show in Birmingham. We unveiled a package of measures designed to help employers in this sector improve their businesses.

The IMI took over responsibility for [SkillAuto](#), the body at the heart of automotive competitions in the UK in May. A record number of entries have been received for entry to the 2009 competitions and all eyes will then turn to Canada as it hosts the WorldSkills event next year.

In July we spearheaded the Careers Zone area at the British International Motor Show in London. Partnered by ABC Awards, City and Guilds, IMI Awards, the Learning Grid and the National Skills Academy for Manufacturing, the show was visited by over 472,000 people. The show also saw the launch of our new careers website [Autocity](#). This brings to life the diverse roles available within the industry by using video case studies of real people in real jobs. Since its launch Autocity has been visited by over 20,500 people.

A major success was the launch of the ATA consumer campaign. Sporting the slogan, 'You know you're OK with ATA', the campaign included the launch of a new web address [www.OKwithATA.com](http://www.OKwithATA.com) designed to help consumers locate their nearest garage employing ATA technicians. The campaign has been a huge success reaching over 26 million people in the first 6 months alone.

The IMI began an industry wide consultation process on the [National Occupational Standards](#) in August. These standards underpin all qualifications in the automotive sector and to date in excess of 20,000 people have had the opportunity to provide their feedback on the standards.



The IMI has also been advising employers of the increased flexibilities relating to accessing funding in our sector. This is critically important to help businesses in the automotive sector train their workforce at a time when it is undoubtedly most needed.

Finally, the IMI outlined in October the process to renew its licence from the Government to continue to operate as the SSC for the next five years. We will continue to focus on providing solutions support to organisations within the retail motor industry across all four nations in 2009.

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### **Drive Forward archive**

To see previous editions of Drive Forward newsletters please [click here](#)

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Any comments or feedback on Drive Forward are appreciated, please send to [adrianl@motor.org.uk](mailto:adrianl@motor.org.uk).

Regards  
Adrian Lawson  
Development Manager - Quality Improvement

[Click here to visit the IMI website ...](#)

If you would prefer not to receive further emails from us, please email [imiustop@motor.org.uk](mailto:imiustop@motor.org.uk)