



THE INSTITUTE OF THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

## **Drive Forward** in Automotive Skills Training - January 2010

Welcome to the Motor Industry Skills e-newsletter produced by the IMI, the Sector Skills Council for the retail motor industry. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a merry 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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## **National Occupational Standards - QCF/SCQF Units - Qualifications**

Further progress has been made over the past month relating to the new suites of vocational qualifications for the sector.

### **Phase 1. National Occupational Standards (NOS) Development**

Feedback has now been received for 5 of the newly developed NOS suites, and the UK

NOS Panel have approved in principle the following:

Light Vehicle Maintenance & Repair  
Heavy Vehicle Maintenance & Repair  
Motorcycle Maintenance & Repair  
Accident Repair    Body  
Vehicle Damage Assessors

The remaining suites are expected to be approved shortly. All suites can be [found here](#).

### **Phase 2. Qualification and Credit Framework/Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework Unit Development**

IMI has been working with awarding organizations to collaboratively develop common QCF/SCQF units. Drafts of the following QCF units have now been completed:

Light Vehicle Maintenance & Repair  
Heavy Vehicle Maintenance & Repair  
Vehicle Fitting  
Accident Repair    Paint  
Accident Repair    Body  
Auto Electrical & Mobile Electrical

The remaining suites are expected to be completed by February 2010.

### **Phase 3. Qualification Development - which are nationally recognised**

As QCF/SCQF unit development is completed, the IMI will work with awarding organisations to build competency and knowledge/skills based qualifications. The qualifications will be based on the structures developed by the NOS Expert Working Groups from industry.

Please contact your awarding organisations to find out when qualifications will be available.

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### **Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) Seminars**

As a result of advertising in Drive Forward last month, the IMI has received great interest in the free seminars. We still have places remaining across all nations, especially Wales and Northern Ireland. Dates and venues are yet to be confirmed but please register your interest in attending with the number of places you'd like by emailing Kelly Shipp on [kellysh@motor.org.uk](mailto:kellysh@motor.org.uk) or call the IMI on 01992 511521.

The QCF is a new framework for recognising and accrediting qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is at the heart of a major reform of the vocational qualifications system designed to make it simpler to understand and use, with the intention to make both the system and the qualifications offered far more relevant to the needs of employers and more flexible and accessible for learners.

The IMI will be running a number of free seminars across England, Wales and Northern Ireland in February and March 2010 designed to provide information and guidance about the new framework. Whether you're a training provider, an employer or trade association looking at how to get your in-house training nationally accredited, need clarification on the new qualifications on offer to the sector, and more specifically your own businesses and staff, or whether you are an association or stakeholder involved with vocational qualifications development and provision, these informative events will be relevant to you.

The IMI will notify of further events specific to Scottish Vocational Qualifications including the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework in due course.

If you want to find out more then please register your interest with Kelly as above.

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## **Apprenticeship Funding**

The Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11 was published by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills on Tuesday 17th November and sets out how investment will support FE and skills training for post 19 learners.

The figures announced for Apprenticeships show that overall there will be a significant rise in the total amount of funding for Apprenticeships for this age group, rising from £389m in 2009-10 to £398m in £2010-11. This equates to a budget increase of 2% and will enable an extra 35,000 Level 3 Apprenticeship places to be made available over the next two years across all sectors.

Budget figures relating to 16 to 18 year old Apprentices are to be announced shortly by the Department of Children Schools and Families.

The Skills Investment Strategy confirmed that the funding rate for those taking an Apprenticeship over the age of 19 will be reduced by three per cent, and for those aged over 25 by 10 per cent.

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## **Apprenticeship Awards**

Simon Waugh, Chief Executive for the National Apprenticeship Service, has announced the launch of the Apprenticeship Awards 2010, open to both apprentices and employers across England.



[For full details click here](#)

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## **National Occupational Standards - Industry Consultation**

*Have Your Say !*

**Caravan & Motorhome Maintenance & Repair Standards**

**Valeting Standards**

The IMI has over the past few months been in the process of developing new suites of occupational standards aimed at providing the Caravan Maintenance & Repair and Valeting sectors with fit-for-purpose qualifications, filling a current gap in vocational qualification provision.

Employer led expert working groups developed the initial draft national occupational standards. The aim is that they may be used for a variety of purposes, including work based training programmes, job descriptions or staff appraisals, as well as forming the basis of new qualifications.

Have your say - visit [www.motor.org.uk/nos](http://www.motor.org.uk/nos) to download and review the proposed qualification structures and the supporting draft occupational standards.

Your participation in the consultation process would be greatly appreciated. The closing date for comments on the consultations is 18th January 2010

For more information, or to submit comments, please contact Beverley Lilley at [beverleyl@motor.org.uk](mailto:beverleyl@motor.org.uk)

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## UK summary of skills priorities for the Automotive Retail Sector

This paper describes the current and future skills priorities for the sector. It draws on research undertaken by the IMI and a range of secondary sources.



Some current key skills priorities include:

- The quality of managers and leaders in the sector in general needs improvement. Having good strategic and visionary managers is key to enabling the sector to successfully emerge from the economic crisis.

- Although it is widely accepted by employers that improving management and leadership skills is essential for the sector, it is not common for managers to be able to identify the need in themselves.

- Technical skills are in constant demand and are the most recognised skills gap. This is largely due to the phenomenal pace of new technology being launched. Smaller businesses with no vehicle manufacturer franchises agreements are at particular disadvantage.

- Customer service, sales and problem solving are also skill priorities for the sector.

[To read the reports click here](#)

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## Employment forecasts and principal skills requirements

The purpose of this report is to understand the future size and shape of employment within the automotive retail sector. The report focuses on the industry as a whole as well as at the national and regional level. It is particularly important that we have an understanding of the future skills requirement of the sector so that in the long term the sector is not left with a skills shortage/vacuum as a result of the current economic downturn.

The principle data source for this report is the Working Futures 2007-17 econometric forecasting which was undertaken on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council and its partners by the Warwick Institute for Employment Research in collaboration with Cambridge Econometrics.

Between 2007 and 2017 total UK employment is projected to rise from an estimated 28.5 million to 30.25 million, an increase of some 5.7% over the next decade.

The number of jobs in the UK automotive retail sector is forecast to increase over the coming decade. Between 2007 and 2017 a net increase of 11,000 jobs are forecast, an increase of 2%. In addition to this net change there will also be a replacement demand (due to retirement, migration and occupational mobility) of 213,000 jobs. The total net requirement will be some 224,000 jobs, accounting for just over a third of all employment in 2017.

[To read the key findings and full report click here](#)

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### **Industry placements meeting employer business need**

As a follow-up to Business Interchange, the industry placement scheme for teachers, trainers, lecturers etc, the IMI would like to develop a sustainable model which would result in bespoke training designed to meet a business need of the host employer. The participating college or training provider would benefit from the potential new business gained, a strengthened relationship with an employer and, from an individual trainer's point of view, from a successful CPD workplace experience.

In order to run pilots for this model, we need to hear from potential participants, both employers and colleges or training providers. If you think that could be you and you'd like to find out more, please contact [carolineh@motor.org.uk](mailto:carolineh@motor.org.uk)

To view a short video diary showing the experiences of two industry placements, including one from the automotive sector, [click here](#)

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## Training Providers website area

The IMI website has been refreshed and now has a fresh new look, with clearer screens and simpler navigation.

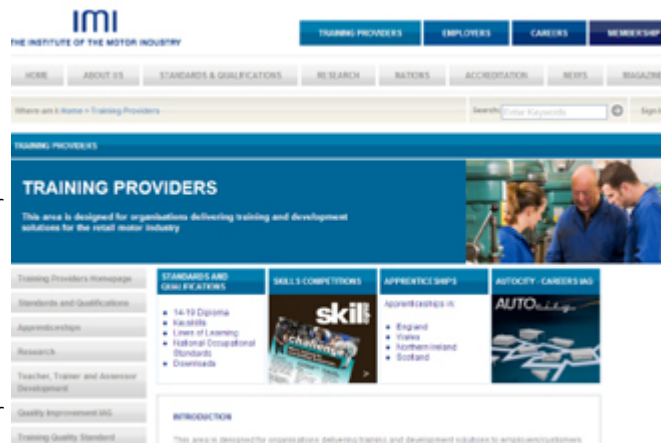
There is a dedicated area designed for organisations delivering training and development solutions to employers/customers in the retail motor industry, which includes:

- training and development opportunities for teachers, trainers and assessors
- useful resources, learning materials, books, work experience toolkit, Autocity - careers IAG
- motor industry skills training news and information - Drive Forward E-newsletter
- opportunity to develop and improve the quality of training provision - Training Quality Standard

To comment on this area or for more information please contact Adrian Lawson Development Manager - Quality Improvement: Email [adrianl@motor.org.uk](mailto:adrianl@motor.org.uk)

[The Training Provider area can be found here.](#)

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## Tech Talk - Technical Training Information

If you are involved in delivering technical training you may find the Tech Talk area of the IMI website useful. To see the latest article on Torque & Power please [click here](#)

To see previous editions on this subject plus other subject areas, please [click here](#)

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## Funding Advice

The IMI Funding Advice Service has been developed to assist employers and training providers to find out more about the Government funding available across all four

nations and to provide guidance on how it can be accessed.

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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

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