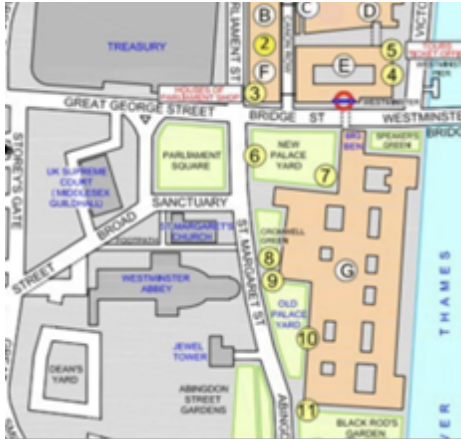


APPG on the Future of Work: The right skills for a thriving economy?

2:00-3:30pm, 24th April 2025

Venue: House of Lords **Committee Room 4A**

Arrival: Please arrive at Cromwell Green entrance, marked 9 on the map below:



You will need to bring photo ID. There are stringent security checks upon arrival, so please do leave time for this. If asked, please advise security that you are here for Andrew Pakes MP / Lord Jim Knight's APPG session on the Future of Work in Committee Room 4A of the House of Lords.

Event Briefing

This event will explore the role of Skills England in preparing the UK workforce for the challenges of the future. As automation, AI, and shifting industry demands reshape the labour market, the need for a coherent skills strategy has never been greater.

Speakers will assess the UK's current skills landscape, identify key gaps, and discuss the reforms needed to ensure education and training systems remain responsive to economic shifts.

The session aims to foster a forward-looking dialogue that informs policy development and practical action.

The discussion will aim to focus on the following topics and key questions:

- The role and vision of Skills England: What should be the key priorities for Skills England in shaping the UK's workforce strategy?
- Lifelong learning and workforce adaptability: How can policy encourage lifelong learning and continuous skills development?
- Skills gaps and economic competitiveness: What are the most pressing skills shortages in the UK, and how should they be addressed?
- Future-proofing the workforce: How do emerging technologies, including AI and automation, impact workforce planning?

Speaker Bios

Lord Jim Knight (co-chair) is a Labour life peer and former Minister of State for Employment and Minister for Schools. He represented South Dorset as an MP from 2001-2010. His focus as a peer has been on digital technology and education. Jim was Chief Education and External Officer at TES Global Ltd, the news, training, jobs and resource sharing service in education. He is also a visiting Professor at the Knowledge Lab of the UCL Institute of Education and a founder of X Rapid, enabling diagnosis of malaria and asbestos fibres using iPhones.

Lauren Edwards MP is the Labour MP for Rochester and Strood, and co-chair for the APPG for Skills, Careers and Employment. Prior to her election as MP, she was the Cabinet Member responsible for Economic and Social Regeneration and Inward Investment on Medway Council where she sat on a number of regional external bodies focused on economic growth and skills, such as the South East Local Enterprise Partnership, the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership, the Kent and Medway Employment Taskforce, and the Kent and Medway Business Fund.

Lizzie Crowley is the Senior Skills Policy Advisor at the CIPD, where she works to develop high-quality research to inform organisational practice, policy and shape the public debate.

Donna Ford-Clarke is VP of Vocational Qualifications and Portfolio at Pearson, the UK's largest awarding organisation offering academic, vocational and work-based learning qualifications.

Dan Howl is Head of Policy and Public Affairs at BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, a 70,000 strong membership body for IT professionals, aimed at raising standards of competence and conduct across the IT industry.

Simon Parkinson is the Chief Executive and General Secretary of the Workers Educational Association, the UK's largest voluntary sector provider of adult education and one of Britain's biggest charities.

Anna Thomas is the co-founder and Director of the Institute for the Future of Work. She was formerly a barrister from Devereux Chambers, specialising in employment law and appointed as Counsel to the Equality and Human Rights Commission. Prior to setting up the Institute for the Future of Work, Anna was Head of Policy for the Future of Work Commission. Anna is also Fellow of the Institute for Policy Research, the RSA and IEO, and is on the Advisory Board of Digital Futures at Work (Digit).

Further information on the APPG on the Future of Work can be found on its webpage, where you can also sign up to receive news and updates of upcoming events: <https://www.futureworkappg.org.uk>