



Press Release

For immediate release
Tuesday 22nd March 2005

Skills White Paper - IoD Response

The Institute of Directors (IoD) welcomed the Government's Skills White Paper, published today, but warned that ultimately improving the skills of the UK workforce depended upon improving standards of literacy and numeracy in schools.

Richard Wilson, Head of Business Policy at the Institute of Directors, said:

"The new National Employer Training Programme and the proposed pilots to subsidise training to NVQ Level 3 should help to drive up standards of literacy and numeracy in the workforce and increase the proportion of people qualified to Levels 2 and 3. Many employers will also welcome the development of Skills Academies to address skill needs in particular sectors of the economy.

"However, the Government must also work to improve vocational qualifications, such as Apprenticeships, vocational GCSEs and vocational A Levels.

"Above all, the central priority for the future must be to improve levels of achievement in schools. Unless pupils leave school with a good grounding in basic skills and qualifications to at least Level 2, there is insufficient on which to build and skill shortages and skill gaps will persist."

Ends

25.2.05 No.311

Contact Points:

David Marshall, Director of Public Affairs, tel: 020 7451 3263

Mobile and out of hours: 07764 883420

Richard Taylor, Press Officer, tel. 020 7451 3264

Mobile and out of hours. 07721 734886

Email. Press@iod.com

Web. www.iod.com

Notes to editors

- IoD Annual Convention – Wednesday 27 April 2005, Royal Albert Hall
Guest speakers include; Gerald Ratner, Terry Leahy (CEO Tesco), Arun Sarin (CEO Vodafone), Richard Rogers and Clive Woodward.
Register for press passes on tel. **020 7451 3264**; press@iod.com
- The IoD (Institute of Directors) was founded in 1903 and obtained a Royal Charter in 1906. The IoD is a non-party political organisation with upwards of 54,000 members in the United Kingdom. Membership includes directors from right across the business spectrum – from media to manufacturing, e-business to the public and voluntary sectors. Members include CEOs of large corporations as well as entrepreneurial directors of start-up companies.
- The IoD offers a wide range of business services which include business centre facilities (including six UK regional centres and one European centre in Paris), conferences, networking events, issues-led guides and literature as well as information services and free access to a comprehensive business library and enquiry service. The IoD places great emphasis on director development and has established a certified qualification for directors - Chartered Director - as well as running specific board-level and director-level training and individual career mentoring programmes.
- In addition, the IoD provides an effective voice to represent the interests of its members to government and key opinion-formers at the highest levels. These include ministers, constituency MPs, Select Committee members and senior civil servants. IoD policies and views are actively promoted to the national, regional and trade media.
- For further information, visit our website: www.iod.com