

## Written Evidence Submitted by the Chartered Trading Standards Institute - Public Bill Committee Enterprise Bill [HL]

### Apprenticeships

We were initially concerned that Part 4, Section 21 of the bill gave the authority to enforce against those who misuse the term apprenticeships to every local authority trading standards (weights and measures) office.

*(7) Every local weights and measures authority in England—*

*(a) has a duty to enforce the provisions of this section within their area;*

*(b) must make to the Secretary of State, whenever he or she so directs, a report on the exercise of the authority's functions under this section.*

Trading standards services prioritise activities based on the level of detriment to consumers and businesses in their area. It was our concern that this duty would not cause enough localised detriment to lead to enforcement action against those misusing the term apprentice. This would undermine the intention of the provision under the bill.

We suggested for this national issue that the government appoint a lead authority, a local authority service which would be the single point of contact for the provisions under the bill, to ensure that the protection of apprenticeships is covered by a body which is able to give it the proportionate response in staff and if needed enforcement.

CTSI raised this suggestion at the grand committee stage and were happy to see the following response from the minister-

*Baroness Neville-Rolfe - we intend to appoint and fund a lead local authority to carry out the enforcement of the measure on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. That has been discussed with the Trading Standards Institute, which agrees that this is the most sensible approach. We already know that this model works successfully for some functions, such as the illegal moneylending team which is based in Birmingham City Council.*

While the current bill has not yet been amended to reflect these changes we look forward to the government going through with this amendment before the bill is finalised.

CTSI was pleased to work with both front bench teams during the grand committee stage of the bill's passage through the House of Lords. We hope that in future, on matters relating to weights and measures, trading standards and consumer protection issues, those interested reference our expertise as a way of ensuring that legislation takes into account the trading standards profession which will have to carry out any resulting enforcement.