

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404040
F 020 7421 6855
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



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Mr D McPherson
Gloucestershire Training Group Limited
8 Chancel Close
Eastern Avenue
Gloucester
GL4 3SN

Dear Mr McPherson

Ofsted survey inspection programme – An evaluation of the role of employers in work-related education and training

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation during my visit on 8 October 2009. I am particularly grateful to you and all your staff for the hard work involved in preparing for the visit and for giving up a great deal of time during the visit to meet me. Please pass on my thanks to all those concerned.

The visit provided much useful evidence, which will contribute to our national survey of good practice in the role that employers play in work-related education and training.

The evidence used to help form the judgements made on this one-day visit included interviews with staff, employers and learners and scrutiny of the examples of good practice provided. A range of documents, case studies and data were reviewed.

I agreed to provide a summary of the good practice seen and to identify some areas for development. I outline the main findings below.

The main strengths are:

- high success rates maintained
- very high timely success rate in 2007/08
- strong employer links during both on- and off-the-job training
- good involvement of employers in developing individual programmes for learners' training and assessment
- the strong work ethic developed among learners during off-the-job training

- the very effective use of mentors to support learners in some companies
- the ability to respond rapidly to the needs of employers.

The main areas for further development are:

- to have more in-company assessors
- to extend the use of mentors to more companies.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop provision. If there are any points you wish to discuss, please contact me. As we will be evaluating the survey, you may be contacted in the future to find out your views. I hope you will contribute to this evaluation.

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Phil Romain
Her Majesty's Inspector