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7 February 2014

Dear Connétable

Digital Skills Review

Thank you for your letter dated 28 November 2013 regarding the Digital Skills Review currently being undertaken and your invitation to Foreshore to submit a written response to any or all of the Terms of Reference (TOR).

We would like to take this opportunity to respond specifically to TOR No.2- *“To examine whether the approach to improving digital skills in schools contained in the Vision for IT in Education, is supported by stakeholders”*.

There are only a small number of local companies involved in our business as an Internet Service Provider (ISP) and a Cloud / Managed Services Provider. This means that the IT skills we require are very limited in the local market. Consequently, for some of our junior technical roles we have adopted a policy of recruiting young staff (including school leavers) with limited IT skills and provided extensive on-the-job training. On this basis, we are generally supportive of the Education, Sports and Culture’s (ESC) strategy ‘Vision for IT in Education’.

The document makes reference to individual schools being responsible for the development of their own plans. For reasons already highlighted in Tim Bullock’s response, we suggest that there could be a more consistent approach, by the use of some form of centrally managed curriculum. This would necessarily need to take input not only from the schools themselves but also local employers in the digital sector and Digital Jersey being the body responsible for the creation of new jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your Digital Skills Review.

Yours sincerely

Chris Evans
Chief Executive Officer

