

# STATES OF JERSEY



## **TRACKERS APPRENTICE PROGRAMME (S.R.8/2014): RESPONSE OF THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE**

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**Presented to the States on 19th September 2014  
by the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture**

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**STATES GREFFE**

**TRACKERS APPRENTICE PROGRAMME (S.R.8/2014): RESPONSE OF THE  
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE**

**Ministerial Response to:** S.R.8/2014

**Ministerial Response required by:** 5th September 2014

**Review title:** Trackers Apprentice Programme

**Scrutiny Panel:** Education and Home Affairs

**INTRODUCTION**

I welcome the interest of the Panel in Trackers: the Apprentice Programme, and would like to thank them for their review.

**FINDINGS**

	<b>Findings</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	<b>Key Finding 1:</b> The mentors are key to the success of this scheme. (9.8)	I am pleased that this has been recognised, as the mentors are fundamental to the success of the programme.
2	<b>Key Finding 2:</b> The Panel has found evidence to suggest that Highlands College and University Campus may require additional funding to provide a modern training provider. (11.9)	I have asked my officers to work with Highlands College to identify capacity constraints, and to work with other partners, including employers, to assess the requirement for additional facilities which may include a Skills Centre.
3	<b>Key Finding 3:</b> The Trackers Apprenticeship Programme is in danger of becoming a victim of its own success by outrunning the budget previously made available. This would be to the detriment of the apprentices, local industry and the Island in general. (14.7)	I am delighted that Trackers has been so positively received. My officers have already submitted proposed growth bids for Trackers in the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2016 and beyond. However, these bids will not resolve the pent-up demand for new places in 2015 (including planned new schemes for financial services and digital industries). My officers are in the process of discussing essential new 2015 funding amounting to £550,000 in order that we can avoid being forced to cap Trackers numbers at the 2014 level and continue to grow Trackers and satisfy demand next year.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Accept/ Reject</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Target date of action/ completion</b>
1	The Minister for Education, Sport and Culture must request further funding for the Trackers Apprenticeship Programme within the next Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). (14.8)	HA	Accept	See comments in response to Key Finding 3.	Growth bids have been submitted and we are now awaiting decisions at a strategic level.

## CONCLUSION

I am grateful for the Panel's thorough review, which has highlighted the benefits the programme offers and its successes to date. The future funding of the programme is critical to achieving the objectives set out in the Skills Strategy. Education, Sport and Culture will be seeking support for funding from the Council of Ministers when the MTFP is debated.