

Please see observations from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport welcomes the Department of Education and Skills' Statement of Strategy 2015-2017. In particular the Minister welcomes the commitment to provide "targeted programmes across both the further and higher education sectors to ensure the flexible provision of education and training which is highly relevant to labour market needs" and the further commitment to "improve opportunities for upskilling and reskilling that meet the needs of individuals and the labour market". These commitments are very relevant to tourism. The Tourism Leadership Group has highlighted the critical importance of ensuring that there is an adequate supply of skilled staff in the tourism sector, including key roles such as chefs, food service, accommodation services, and tour guides.

While not specifically mentioned in the Statement of Strategy the Minister looks forward to the completion of the review of the English Language Training sector with a view to returning to a leadership position in the ELT market.

The Department also welcomes the improved coordination and cooperation with the Department of Education and Skills over the last number of years particularly in relation to the development of the cross-sectoral National Physical Activity Plan. The Department looks forward to continued partnership between the two Departments given the cross-cutting nature of policies on sport and physical activity with education policy and to the successful implementation of the National Physical Activity Plan which will be jointly led by this Department and the Department of Health..

Kind regards
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