Skills Development Scotland (SDS) would like to invite you to participate in the development of new Scottish Apprenticeships in Digital Technology at SCQF L8 which includes Cyber Security.

The world of work is changing and with the impacts of COVID-19, it is more important than ever that employers are central to the development of high-quality apprenticeships.

To develop the future ready employees that you need, we’re looking for input from those who can reflect the realities of the workplace. With your help, we can create apprenticeships that will develop your people and drive your business to succeed.

 **Why should I participate?**

* It’s a unique opportunity to lead, change and influence the direction of learning and training on offer within your organisation
* You’ll have real and direct involvement in the design of Scottish apprenticeships in Digital Technology, ensuring your business has access to people with the right skills and knowledge at the right time
* You will be part of shaping the future of apprenticeships for Scotland

**How can I participate?**

At SDS, we have introduced a new approach to the development of apprenticeships. It provides a system that is easy and more effective for employers and apprentices to understand and engage in; and one that aims to strengthen the breadth and depth of employers’ views in the design of apprenticeships.

This approach has already been tried and tested, succeeding in the development of graduate apprenticeships and modern apprenticeships. We are asking you to support the design process by participating in some or all the activities noted below:

Employee workshops

The purpose of these workshops is to gather real and current information about work situations or activities that occur in a job, so that they can be accurately developed into the knowledge, skills and behaviours required by employers.

Technical expert groups (TEGs)
TEGs are made up of employers and other stakeholders with knowledge and experience of the requirements of a competent apprentice within a given occupation. The TEG will refine and validate the outputs from the employee workshop to create an apprenticeship and will develop guidance on how to deliver the apprenticeship - the apprenticeship framework.

Wider consultation

If you cannot commit to the TEG or employee workshop, SDS would still like to involve you in broader consultation of the developments during the development period and specifically before the final TEG meetings.

You’ll find more detailed information on these activities and processes within the document attached to this invitation. These initiatives will be held virtually, therefore there are no geographical barriers to obtaining input from across Scotland.

**Here’s what other employers had to say about their experience as a TEG member:**

* “It has allowed my organisation to have a say and ensure that the apprenticeship will still suit our business”
* “It has developed new skills for the staff that attended and built their wider networks”
* “I have peace of mind that future changes to the qualification will still be a good fit” ​

If you are interested in helping shape the future of Digital Technology apprenticeships in Scotland, we want to hear from you. Please contact Laura McEwan on laura.mcewan@sds.co.uk who will be happy to discuss any aspect of this with you in more detail.

We do hope that you are able to support this critical development activity, your contribution will be invaluable and will provide long-term benefits, for your business and your employees.