

## LOCAL APPRENTICE APPOINTED TO ADVISE GOVERNMENT

<b>Date of issue</b>	7 January 2008
<b>Publication number</b>	167
<b>Embargo until</b>	immediate release

An office administrator from Dunstable has been selected to help advise Government ministers on further education and training issues.

Lynette Wieland, 18, is studying for an NVQ level 3 in Business and Administration at her workplace, Management and Personnel Services Ltd. (MAPS). She has been selected to sit on the National Learner Panel which was set up last year by Bill Rammell, Minister of State for Further and Higher Education. The Panel gives learners over the age of 16 a say in the development of further education at national level which helps the Government, the Learning and Skills Council and other organisations make key decisions.

Lynette said: "I'm very pleased to have been appointed to the Panel. I'm particularly looking forward to supporting other work-based learners. We will be reviewing the isolation sometimes felt by learners in full time employment and learner involvement strategies."

David Douglas, executive director of MAPS, said, "I encouraged Lynette to apply to join the Panel because she has a lot of good ideas and is not afraid to voice her opinions. She is particularly passionate that work-based apprentices should have the same advantages as learners who attend college."

Bill Rammell said: "Involving learners in what we do is not optional. It must be integral to every aspect of learning; from decisions in Government, to college and provider

management, to the classroom and workshop. We all have a role and a responsibility to ensure learning is guided by and responds to the needs and aspirations of all individuals in further education.

“My commitment, and that of my Department, is to ensure the voice of learners is heard at the very heart of Government policy making. I look forward to working with Lynette over the coming year and expect her and her fellow Panel members to help make the important learner voice contribution to the development of further education policies.”

Lynette will meet with Bill Rammell on January 14th at the next National Learner Panel meeting.

-ENDS-

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### **Notes to editors**

#### **The National Learner Panel**

Bill Rammell announced the establishment of the first ever National Learner Panel for Further Education in November 2006. The first Panel consisted of 15 learners aged 16 to 75 drawn from a range of backgrounds and learning settings from across the FE sector. The Minister agreed that the Panel would be independent with a remit focussed on ensuring that the learner voice can be heard at a national level able to influence policy design and delivery. To find out more about the National Learner Panel go to [www.direct.gov.uk/nationallearnerpanel](http://www.direct.gov.uk/nationallearnerpanel).

The panel held its first working panel meeting in January 2007 and since then has:

- Developed a response to the Leitch review for the DIUS.
- Written the foreword to the LSC's Learner Involvement Handbook.
- Worked with Ofsted to identify ways in which learners could become more involved in

the inspection process.

- Highlighted the lack of support for work-based learners.
- Considered the implications of demand-led funding, and made recommendations for the support and approach that they believe will be necessary to ensure that Learner Accounts are successfully introduced.
- Met with Bill Rammell to discuss the implications of raising the statutory participation age