

## **Shadowing Government Minister Fits the Bill for Simone**

**Date of issue** 28 March 2008

**Publication number** NWR-186

Manchester based Simone Toole gained a unique insight into the world of Government decision making when she shadowed Minister of State for Further and Higher Education, Bill Rammell earlier this month.

After starting her new position as Information Administrator at the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) regional office in Manchester, Simone jumped at the opportunity to spend a day with Bill Rammell MP in London, getting a first hand view of the day in the life of a Government minister, an experience both relevant to her job at the LSC and her recent appointment onto the National Learner Panel (NLP).

Simone comments, "I joined the LSC last month and I am also part of the NLP, which means that I offer a learner perspective when it comes to the development of further education at national level. As such the NLP organised for me to work shadow Mr Rammell to see what his role involves and to get a better idea of how I can contribute to Government decision making.

"Mr Rammell was really approachable and I was able to ask lots of questions about his work. I sat in on a number of his meetings and together we looked at some of the speeches he was preparing to give. I was also lucky enough to see a conference on the topic of cohesion that took place during my visit. This allowed me to listen to the views of college Principals and to hear about what is important to them."

John Korzeniewski, Regional Director at the LSC North West comments, "Simone is clearly committed to learning and her own career development and shadowing Bill Rammell MP has been a great opportunity for her. It has given her the chance to

personally see what goes on at a national Government level and this, combined with her past experience in the education sector, will help Simone contribute to the LSC's agenda in the North West."

"Education is something I am very passionate about" Simone continues. "Prior to working at the LSC I worked as a Union Learning Representative at HM Revenue & Customs, which is how I came to apply to sit on the NLP and I am now continuing to learn as I study Trade Union History at Wirral Metropolitan College.

"My work shadowing was a great experience and will definitely help me in my role at the LSC. During the day I gained a really good insight into the work of the LSC, and how the Government views our role of ensuring high quality education provision. Mr Rammell has given me permission to stay in touch with him via email for any questions I might have following my visit and I'm now looking forward to putting what I have learnt into practice."

### **Ends**

#### **Learning and Skills Council:**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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