

Route Panel: role description

The role of IfATE's route panels

Route panel members provide strategic oversight for the sectors in which they operate, drawing on their knowledge and experience of the day-to-day realities of different occupations in those sectors to help shape skills development. They understand existing and future skills needs, enabling them to advise, challenge and make recommendations on the relevance, quality and credibility of apprenticeships, technical qualifications and other technical education products.

Panel recommendations feed into the IfATE Compliance Board, where panel recommendations are reviewed, and final decisions are made.

As well as contributing formally to route panel meetings, many panel members are also passionate and active advocates for technical education, promoting the benefits of this across their networks and representing IfATE and its work on public platforms.

Members may also, from time to time, be asked for their views on issues related to their sectors or to business more widely, providing a trusted source of employer views for IfATE and other government departments.

Route Panel responsibilities

Sector insight

- Identify current and future skills needs and challenges for their sector and the implications of these for IfATE's products and policies
- Provide insights into the realities of working in the sector
- Advise on the education and training that will be most effective in developing the skills needed to do this work
- Make informed judgements about the most appropriate way(s) to assess learning outcomes
- Provide insights into how IfATE products are meeting the needs of employers and learners, notably in their sector

Sector oversight

- Set strategic priorities for addressing the skills needs of the sector as a whole (the route strategy), including:

- identifying occupations connected by similarities in skills requirements (reducing duplication and proliferation of products)
- determining the occupational map that sets out all occupations in a sector that can be developed by means of an apprenticeship or technical qualification
- ensuring products exist to support continued progression within and beyond the sector
- advising on what isn't working within the sector
- Feed into and maintain oversight of route-wide projects, such as the development of industry best-practice frameworks (for example on diversity and the green agenda)
- Advise on the focus of IfATE route reviews and route strategies – identifying those technical education products that may need to be refreshed or phased out to ensure continued fit with employer needs
- Review, approve and oversee implementation of route review recommendations
- Advise on the composition of employer trailblazer groups
- Provide advice and assistance with other initiatives related to their sector, subject to route panel capacity

Product approval

- Use their sector knowledge and awareness to:
 - review (and challenge or agree) proposals for new occupations that are appropriate for skills development
 - provide expert advice on the technical and occupational content of technical education products – ensuring proposed content serves the reality of working in the sector
 - make credible recommendations to IfATE on the approval of technical education products, including apprenticeships, T levels and HTQs, as well as associated products, such as assessment plans and funding band recommendations

All route panel members are expected to uphold the standards of conduct as defined by the Committee on Standards in Public Life in the [Seven Principles of Public Life](#).