



Social Mobility Commission

Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

DATE: 13th July 2020

Dear Baroness Whitaker and Lord Watson of Invergowrie,

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Social Mobility Commission with your views on highlighting apprentices from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller backgrounds in our recent report, Apprentices, and social mobility: fulfilling potential?

Your letter has made us reflect on how we can improve our plans to address intersectionality more. Last year, the Commission for the first time analysed the intersectional effects of the class pay gap using gender, ethnicity, and disability as our lens. We aspire to do more on intersectionality, and we will consider your steer to include Gypsy, Roma, and Travellers in that work.

From a technical perspective, the authors of our study on apprenticeships were unable to do sub-group analysis on this community, as the sample size was too small to be statistically significant. In 2017/18, for example, just 0.05% of apprenticeship starts were noted in the Individual Learner Record (ILR) from these communities (177 in total). As such, the type of analytical work the team did would not have been possible. Further, we note that the report did not seek to look explicitly at ethnicity, though we will take this into consideration in future reports. Finally, we want to confirm that while this population was not highlighted in the report, they were still included. In the ILR, they are designated as 'other white' and are reported in our analysis as such.

We appreciate your efforts to champion this community and for raising this issue with the Commission. We would welcome your input and engagement in future reports. If you would like to discuss this in further detail, we would be happy to speak.

Best wishes,

Steven Cooper and Sandra Wallace

Interim Chairs

Yours sincerely