



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Economy and Fair Work Committee

Damien Yeates
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The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Sent by email only

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Dear Mr Yeates

The Economy and Fair Work Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into Scotland's Town Centres and Retail. During our meeting on [Wednesday 04 May](#), witnesses and members raised the topic of digital skills and the extent to which individuals and small business owners can access training and advertising opportunities. The lack of provision for digital and e-commerce education in schools and further education was also highlighted.

The Committee heard that 98% of small high street retailers do not use free and simple tools that would allow them to upload their inventory and product catalogues, possibly through lack of awareness of the digital tools available. One witness suggested a voucher scheme could be established to allow businesses to seek training from different sources.

During committee meetings on [Wednesday 20 April](#) and [Wednesday 27 April](#), witnesses highlighted the importance of encouraging learning and development for people in retail businesses, enabling workers to see retail as a career.

With these points in mind, the Committee is interested to know the ongoing initiatives Skills Development Scotland are implementing to address the lack digital skills training and how these initiatives are being promoted to small businesses.

It would be helpful if the Committee could receive a response by Wednesday 08 June 2022.

Kind regards

Claire Baker MSP
Convener