

Sector Skills Council Pro-forma

Sector Skills Council: Skillfast - UK

Website	www.skillfast-uk.org
Footprint – areas of responsibility	Apparel, footwear, textiles and related businesses.
Key Drivers and/or SSC priorities	<p>As a Sector Skills Council, Skillfast exists to help employers to compete in a global market, by ensuring access to a skilled workforce, capable of delivering the added-value products and services the world market requires.</p> <p>The sector splits into three broad areas: manufacturing, trading and services.</p> <p>Skillfast-UK turns employer comments about skills, training and recruitment issues into strategies and projects that really make a difference on the factory-floor.</p>
Key Drivers for Skills for Life	Big Push is about what employers see as their skills shortages from which the SSC aims to supply to those needs.
Key contact for Skills for Life	<p>Charles Hubbard Director of Workforce Development</p> <p>Jaine Chisholm Caunt Head of Policy</p> <p>Carla Harrison Cross Sector Skills Manager</p>
Main programmes offered in sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foundation Degree Framework: Clothing - Foundation Degree Framework: Footwear - Foundation Degree Framework: Servicing - Foundation Degree Framework: Textiles <p>No courses available via website.</p>
Key statutory and/or legislative influences in sector	
SSC agreement completed	The Big Push campaign will form the basis of the SSC Agreement. The Big Push has the support of the Government, the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government, the Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland and their agencies. (www.thebigpush.net)
Labour Market Information available	Skillfast-UK represents 41,000 businesses employing 400,000 in the clothing, footwear and textile industries.
Delivery issues for providers	Traditionally, it has been the larger employers who have taken part in training and development

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	<p>activities.</p> <p>Smaller employers have relied on this investment "trickling down" as trained employees move on, bringing their experience and training to the wider market. However, as the number of larger employers contracts, and as training budgets are cut in response to tough market conditions, smaller employers can no longer rely on the trickle-down effect, and must look to develop skills within their own businesses.</p>
Embedded learning materials available	
Case studies	
National Skills Academy established?	Doesn't seem to have a specific academy, but different programmes to enable employer feedback running throughout the country to gauge skills needs.
Skills for Life projects running	Website seems to focus on higher level skills needs.
Newsletters available	e-newsletter called 'Shuttle': skills, training and recruitment news for clothing, footwear and textile businesses.