

Written evidence submitted by Randstad

Re: Education Select Committee's inquiry on the Government's catch-up programme

At Randstad, we wanted to thank you and the Committee for taking the time to assess the Government's progress on its education catch-up programme. We certainly welcome the attention you are giving to the programme and would be pleased to support the Committee in its inquiry wherever helpful.

As a matter of record as you take oral evidence today, we would like to take the time to provide you with some additional context, information and detail about the work Randstad has been doing with the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) to the best possible standard. We hope you will find this useful as part of your inquiry.

For background, Randstad has nearly 30 years of experience in the education sector, and we are delighted to be working with DfE in delivering the Government's flagship National Tutoring Programme for its second year, following a successful first year of the programme delivering over one million hours of tutoring since the start of 2020 as one of the largest tuition providers of the programme. We recognise the importance of the programme and are committed to working in partnership with our stakeholders in delivering an ambitious and high-quality programme at pace, for schools to help their pupils whose education has been most impacted.

We have been receiving positive feedback from the more than 7,000 schools using the programme who are recognising the impact that the NTP is already having, which is a testament to the great work done by our tuition partners and in collaboration with DfE. To date, over 73,000 pupils are now registered onto the NTP, with over 43,000 pupils now receiving tuition. These figures show an almost doubling of the numbers from last week alone and further reflects the progress and effectiveness of the work Randstad is doing to deliver the programme. We would be pleased to provide updated figures in due course if this would be helpful for the Committee.

As the supplier of the NTP, we supply all three pillars of the NTP: Tuition Partners, Academic Mentors and School-Led tuition. You will find attached to this letter a helpful two-page explainer document which sets out in some more detail how the NTP is delivered. We hope you find this useful.

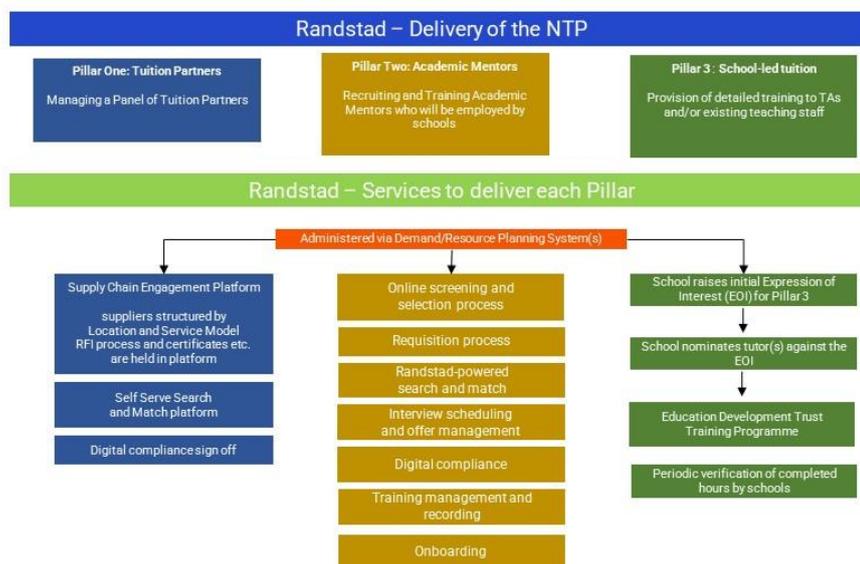
The Committee should note that there are some key fundamental differences between the delivery of Phase 1 of the NTP and Phase 2. Phase 1 saw the introduction of the programme, where implementation was a key priority. Phase 2 has focused on implementation for the second year running and continued development of the programme, putting in a rigorous framework around

financial sustainability, governance and monitoring and evaluation. All of this is ensuring the right checks and balances are in place across all three pillars of the programme to ensure high quality outcomes for all pupils, which is of course the aim of the programme for both Randstad and DfE.

For the first pillar, Phase 2 concerns itself with managing a national network of Tuition Partners. As such, we have created a strong and robust Supply Chain Engagement platform, a self-serving and matching platform, and a digital compliance sign off mechanism to facilitate this.

Secondly, we have been supplying bespoke, 'in class tutors' – or Academic Mentors – facilitating the process by providing comprehensive recruitment and training services. This ensures high-quality Academic Mentors are available for teachers' classrooms to provide much needed additional support to disadvantaged pupils.

Finally, we now provide access to dedicated tuition training for reaching staff through School-led tuition as part of the third pillar, which gives schools more autonomy in allocating their tuition resources.



We are confident that given the good progress of the programme as outlined above, and through our continued close work with DfE, that the NTP will be a successful programme in delivering much needed tutoring hours for children across the country as we recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

We hope this information is useful for the Committee as it undertakes its inquiry, and we would be more than happy to arrange a meeting or provide further written evidence if you would find this helpful.

We want to thank you again for bringing greater public attention and scrutiny to the Government's catch-up programme.

November 2021