Viewpoints Transcript

A message to training providers from Brian Shields, Transport Training Services
My advice to other training providers moving into this area is not to be afraid of it, get involved and use it, the more you use it, the more comfortable you are with it, and it's the way things are going to go.

E-assessment is unstoppable, says employer Jim Spence of JKC Specialist Cars
I think e-assessment and learning in this way is unstoppable, it is the way for the future. Because technology moves so quickly, to keep people up to speed you can't continually send them away to training centres, so if they can do it in the workplace on a computer at a time that benefits them and the employer.

Mike Dawes from City & Guilds says the benefits of e-assessment are all about immediacy
The benefits of e-assessment all stem from the features of information and communication technology which are mostly around immediacy, so to be more specific, we are trying to achieve 'on demand assessment', so people can be assessed when there are ready with immediacy of results, and the benefits that flow out from that are that if you can take you can take your assessments at any time when you're ready to be assessed, rather than at some arbitrary point decided by the awarding body on your behalf. If you're able to get your results immediately as well, especially in a work based context, that means you can move onto further learning to a job that requires that qualification in order to progress.

You can get instant feedback, says a CAFRE agricultural learner, Nicky Young
The benefits of the onscreen assessments are that you get instant feedback on your results, straight away once you have done the test, rather than pen and paper where you have to wait for it to be marked.

East Antrim Institute's Robert Wilsden says results are instant.
The advantages that I found for e-assessment is the fact that the feedback they get back from assessments are instant. I can provide feedback to my candidates, also I can forward the assessment materials to my internal moderator then external moderator, I don't have to leave the building and they don't have to come on site visits. I would rather not go back to pen and paper for the main reason that now we have this system set up, there might be some work setting up the folder structures and the actual process, now that it is set up it's a case of using the system as tried and tested. We don't have to use a photocopier, we don't have to use any paper materials whatsoever, it's all electronic tools.

Apollo Call Centre David Arnott says on screen learning is better than paper
On screen testing is much more practical, it's better than doing it on paper as you get an instant result and you can see whether you're doing it right or doing it wrong.

'E-assessment brings less disruption to work patterns, says Eleanor Byram of E-skills, the sector skills council for information technology, telecommunications and call centres.'
One of the major things employers have said about training is the inconvenience it can cause them and the disruption to work patterns, if we look at the learner being able to access things more flexibly then obviously for the employer there is less disruption to the individual work pattern and the individual can access that training on site, rather than having to go off site to train, which again can cause disruption.