The Institute of Coding: A University-Industry Collaboration to Address the UK's Digital Skills Crisis
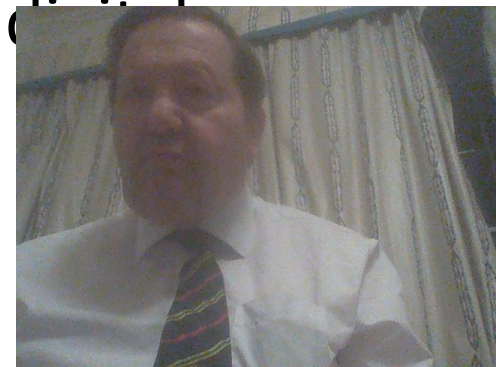## James H. Davenport (Bath)
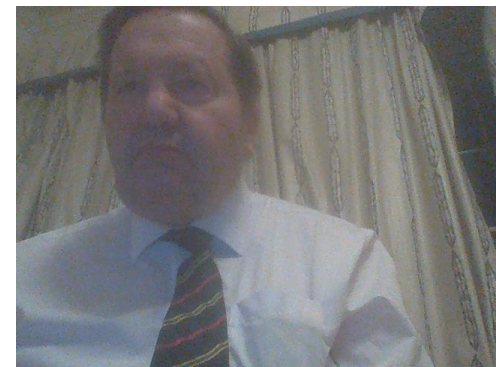
Date of presentation

28 April 2020

Why did the UK spend £20M on an Institute of Coding?

- Government: "CS graduates have 11.7% unemployment, unlike STEM as a whole (8.4%)"

- So we need an intervention

- Shadbolt review: actually after you allow for background etc., there's no difference

- But in the 21st century, shouldn't CS graduates be much *more* employable

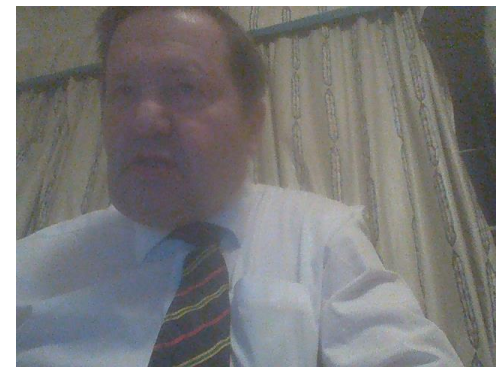- And employers keep moaning about the digital skills shortage.

Institute of Coding: planned 2015

- Change of Government (during which it morphs from UK to England, and needs matched funds)

- Open Competition

- Announced Davos January 2018, to a consortium of 20 universities led by Bath

- We wanted to call it "Institute of Digital Skills" but "A minister had chosen the name"
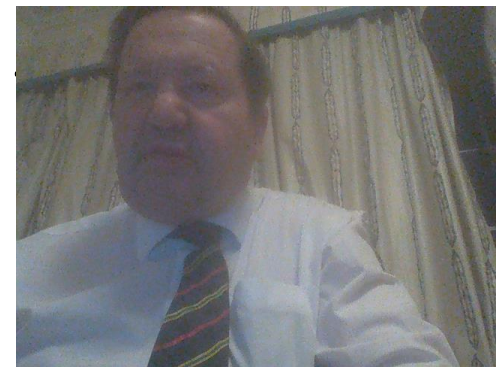
5 Themes (=organisation)

1. University learners
2. The Digital Workforce
3. Digitising the Professions
4. Widening Participation
5. Knowledge Sharing and Sustainability
    1. Observatory
    2. Sustainability
    3. Marketing
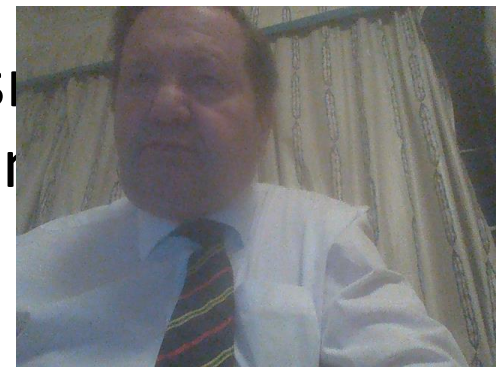   4. Central administration (ouch!)

The Digital Workforce

- Separately, there has been a push towards "Degree Apprenticeships", where students work 4 days a week and study 1 day, with the idea that the two are closely related.

- Can study for a BSc or an MSc this way *provided* there's an appropriate apprenticeship

- Bureaucratic, and most universities were scared

- "Digital Technology Solutions" was an apprenticeship, and IoC, and its funding, to unlock this.

What have we achieved

- Almost 200,000 people have taken our courses, mostly the online taster courses. Numbers growing during the lockdown period

- Degree apprenticeships have taken off in over half the partner universities (and some are moving to run other subjects as well)

- Theme 1 is rethinking accreditation: "what does the graduates know, can they do, *now*"

- Significant research into *why* digital doesn't to women: poor perception and poor sign

Any questions?