



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/0138/23

Luke Fletcher MS
Welsh Parliament

12 May 2023

Dear Luke,

Further to your question in the Senedd on 26 April concerning apprenticeship completions, I am happy to provide additional information.

Our pre-pandemic success (completion) rates were very positive at 80.9%, a level which compared extremely well with other apprenticeship programmes across the UK. It's disappointing that the pandemic has significantly impacted these success rates, falling to 66.3% ⁽¹⁾. Sectors such as Health, Public Services and Care; Hospitality and Catering; and Hair and Beauty were hit drastically by the pandemic, and this has followed through to our apprenticeship success rates.

The number of people leaving their apprenticeship to go into employment has increased. This may well be individuals leaving employers for higher wages and better terms and conditions elsewhere - reflecting the economic difficulties being experienced by the sectors mentioned. We are working with providers and employers to further understand why apprentices don't complete and better understand their support needs.

We have recently agreed funding of over £700,000 to support the health and wellbeing of apprenticeship learners, staff and organisations. This will help learners stay on programme to complete their apprenticeship, continuing our focus on maintaining and further developing quality provision – delivering more successful outcomes in future.

I am copying this letter to the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.