



2021-0037772GKPO

**Gillian Keegan MP**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills

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Martyn Price MBE  
Chairman, Cross-Industry Construction Apprenticeship Task Force  
Craft Hill House  
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25 August 2021

Dear Martyn,

Thank you so much for your letter of 5 August about apprenticeship incentive payments, and for your kind words on my foreword for the CCATF Apprenticeship Vision document.

It was great to get an insight into CCATF's view of the skills needs within the sector and I welcome your support for the work we are doing. I share your belief in the importance of supporting a pathway between the Kickstart scheme and apprenticeships.

Since the launch of the Kickstart scheme, we have worked closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to enable Kickstart placements to turn into apprenticeships, where that is the right thing for the employer and the individual. We have made a special provision to allow employers taking on Kickstarters as apprentices to be eligible for the incentive payment.

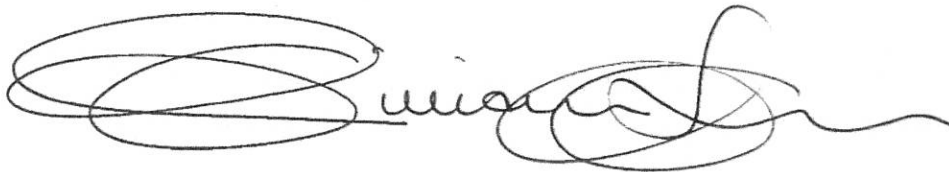
More broadly, it is very pleasing to see that, to date, over 60,000 incentive payments have been claimed for apprentices aged 16 to 24, and a further 19,290 for apprentices aged 25 and over.

I have passed your suggestion (that incentive payments for Kickstarters moving onto apprenticeships are extended beyond 31 September) to policy officials in the department. As with all aspects of apprenticeship funding policy, we are keeping the incentive measure under review to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of employers and the wider economy.

I hope this response has been helpful and thank you again for your continued support of apprenticeships and skills training in the construction sector.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gillian Keegan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Gillian Keegan MP**  
**Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills**