

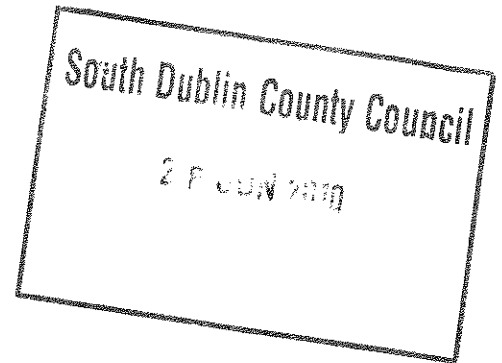


Oifig an Aire Fiontar, Trádála agus Nuálaíochta
Office of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation

Our Ref: 100321/MIN
Your Ref: M15/0310

25th June 2010

Ms Mary Maguire
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services Department
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24



Dear Ms Maguire,

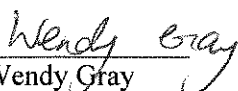
The Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, Mr Batt O'Keeffe T.D., has requested that I refer to your communication dated 9th March in relation to the Work Placement Programme. Furthermore the Minister asked that I convey his apologies for the lateness of the reply.

The Government established the Work Placement Programme to provide valuable work experience to individuals who are unemployed. The Programme will ensure that the unemployed are job ready, are still attached to the labour market and therefore will be better positioned to avail of new job opportunities when they arise.

The Programme was originally launched on 27th May 2009 and it was reviewed in November with revised criteria coming into operation from 1st December. The revised criteria considerably broaden the accessibility of participants and providers to the Programme. While each placement is unpaid, participants who are in receipt of social welfare payments could retain these while on the Programme, subject to the normal social welfare rules applying and the approval of the Department of Social Protection.

Under the guidelines of the Work Placement Programme placements are possible in the wider public service, subject to the agreement of the relevant parent Government Department. Furthermore, the placement of individuals under the Programme is not covered by the moratorium on recruitment in the public service. However, it is a condition of the Programme that any such placements should not displace an existing member of staff or be used to fill a vacant post. Public sector organisations should also take into account industrial relations issues within their own organisation when considering whether to apply to take part in the Work Placement Programme.

Yours sincerely,


Wendy Gray
Private Secretary