

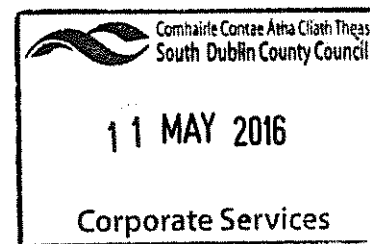


**Oifig an Ard-Rúnaí**  
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna



**Office of the Secretary General**  
Department of Education and Skills

Mr. Tom O'Neill,  
Meetings Administrator,  
Corporate Services Department,  
South Dublin County Council,  
County Hall,  
Dublin 24.



Our Ref: S1612436  
Your Ref: SM1/0416

9 May 2016

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Motion passed at the meeting of South Dublin County Council on 11 April 2016 in relation to the EU co-financed EGF programme in support of former workers at the Lufthansa Technik Airmotive Ireland (LTAI) plant in Rathcoole, Co. Dublin and up to 200 young persons under 25 years who are not in employment, education or training (NEET persons).

It is difficult to accurately forecast final expenditure on this programme which runs until 19 September 2016 as public beneficiary bodies generally fund the cost of EGF measures from national budgets and subsequently submit expenditure declarations/claims during and following completion of the programme. However, the take-up of EGF support measures has been less than anticipated and such lower take-up of support measures will result in lower than expected expenditure.

Details of the uptake of programme measures and the labour market status of the affected population are available at [www.egf.ie](http://www.egf.ie). The most recent implementation report recorded 352 participants in programme measures by mid-December 2015, including 215 former workers and 137 young NEET persons. Compared with the targets of assisting 250 former workers and 200 young people, these figures suggest a reach of 86% and 68% respectively. In terms of the former workers, the report notes the evidence of the improving national economic climate in the re-integration into employment of 65% of the LTAI workforce as at December 2015. While a positive development, a high re-integration rate will reduce the need to call on EGF supports. Engagement with young unemployed NEET persons, which is a new and discretionary provision of the 2013 EU Regulation which governs the EGF and which is being availed of by the Irish authorities, is proving challenging. There is a wide range of support measures – occupational guidance and career development, further

education and higher level education, training, enterprise supports - available under the programme.

Ultimately the take-up of supports is dependent on a large measure of personal choice by hundreds of individuals across a two year timeframe and predicated on their personal circumstances, including current access to employment.

The SOLAS National EGF Coordination Unit has a local office based in Tallaght and both the Unit and the relevant service providers, including the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board, are continuing their efforts to maximise participation in the Programme. These efforts will continue until the end of the programme next September.

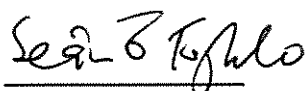
The programme also has a consultative forum in place, with an independent chairperson, worker and NEET representatives as well as the relevant State bodies and service providers. This structure facilitates programme implementation to be monitored and the proposal of new measures within the programme. Increased emphasis is being placed on supporting NEET persons within the current programme, with ongoing engagement with both mainstream public and private service providers, the Department of Social Protection and various community and voluntary organisations. In this context a number of new tailored programmes are currently being developed for NEET persons.

In addition, a survey of those eligible under the current EGF programmes, including the LTAI programme, is being commissioned by the SOLAS National EGF Coordination Unit and the results will be examined to elicit whether any further steps can be taken to increase programme participation.

The Council can be assured that this Department, the SOLAS National EGF Coordination Unit and relevant service providers will continue to seek to maximise participation in the programmes so as to provide meaningful supports to redundant workers and NEET persons in order to facilitate their earliest possible return to, or entry into, employment.

South Dublin County Council is directly involved in the LTAI EGF programme through its Local Enterprise Office which is providing enterprise and start your own business supports to programme beneficiaries. Should the Council have any further inputs to provide and in particular in relation to possible engagement with local businesses so as to provide work placement or internship opportunities for beneficiaries, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss same. In this context the relevant contact points are Mary McGarry (Tel: 01 – 889 2174, [mary\\_mcgarry@education.gov.ie](mailto:mary_mcgarry@education.gov.ie)) and John McDermott (Tel: 01 889 6707, [john\\_mcdermott@education.gov.ie](mailto:john_mcdermott@education.gov.ie) ).

Yours sincerely,



Seán Ó Foghlú  
Secretary General