



**Gillian Keegan MP**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills

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Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP  
Chair, Education Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

10<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Rob,

### **SUPPORT FOR REDUNDANT APPRENTICES**

Covid-19 has had a big impact on business and the jobs market. We have already taken unprecedented action to protect more than 12 million jobs, and now our Plan for Jobs is supporting and creating new opportunities to help drive recovery. As part of this plan employers are being offered up to £2,000 for each new apprentice they hire up to the 31 January 2021 – including for taking on an apprentice who has been made redundant by another employer.

In addition we have launched a support service to make sure that apprentices who have lost their jobs can get the help they need to access financial, legal, health and wellbeing support, as well as careers advice. This support will help get them back on track and on the path to a new career, and our Kickstart scheme will help 1,000s of young people at risk of long-term unemployment into work..

Today I am writing to inform you of further support we are putting in place through amendments to legislation that will allow more redundant apprentices to complete their apprenticeships. This is something I know you have called for over the past months, and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution- particularly on behalf of those apprentices who have been made redundant, or are at risk of being made redundant as a result of the pandemic.

Currently the Education and Skills Funding Agency continue to fund the apprentice to completion if they are made redundant within six months of their final day of training. This allows apprentices that are close to the end of their apprenticeship to continue with it while they look for another employer to complete their apprenticeship with, or, if they are unable to find one, allow them to complete their apprenticeship without an employer.

We have decided to act to support more redundant apprentices in these challenging times. We are amending legislation to extend this support to also fund to completion all apprentices who are at least 75% of their way through their apprenticeship at the point of redundancy. This will give apprentices who have made a substantial and long-term investment in their apprenticeship the opportunity to complete their training and achieve occupational competence.

These changes will mean more redundant apprentices can complete their apprenticeship, putting them in a stronger position to secure new employment. To bring about these changes we are today laying an SI which extends this support to apprentices undertaking both standards and frameworks.

I would be happy to discuss these changes with you further should you wish to know more about them.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gillian', with a large, stylized flourish above it.

**Gillian Keegan MP**  
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