



Gillian Keegan MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills

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Dear Education Select Committee,

Thank you for your email of 6 October 2020. During my appearance for the Committee's Adult Skills and Lifelong Learning inquiry on 29 September 2020, I committed to provide the Committee with further information on two points. These were:

1. How many of the 3,600 Get Help to Retrain users have gone on to get a job and any other associated data.
2. An estimated figure for the number of adults expected to take up the new digital skills entitlement in 2020-21.

I have set out my responses to these points below.

Get Help to Retrain

We don't collect data on which users of Get Help to Retrain go on to obtain a job. An evaluation strategy was in development to look at the longer-term tracking of users and employment, and labour outcomes over time. However, we are not taking this forward in its current form given the decision to integrate Get Help to Retrain into the wider National Careers Service and National Skills Fund. Going forward, the Government will look to track and evaluate outcomes around the National Skills Fund.

Digital Skills Entitlement

We are unable to provide an estimated figure for the number of adults expected to take up the new digital entitlement for 2020/21 as the policy and qualifications only came into effect in August 2020. If desired, the Department for Education can engage data analysts to provide enrolments of ICT User qualifications in 2019/20. This will take longer to generate than would be possible given the need to respond to you this week but please do indicate if this would be helpful to the Committee's inquiry, and we can work to provide the data in due course. Please do note however, these qualifications are not a direct comparison and the data would not imply the same number of enrolments for the digital skills entitlement in 2020/21.

I hope this is helpful as part of the Committee's inquiry and please do get in touch if there are any additional questions that I can assist with.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gillian', with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

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