

FROM THE MINISTER



Department for
**Employment
and Learning**
www.delni.gov.uk

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Our Ref: SUB/549/12

17 December 2012

Dear *Sean*

FOLLOW UP FROM ORAL 6 – 10 DECEMBER 2012

I agreed to write to you to set out specifically the assistance that is on offer today through Steps to Work for participants who incur travel and other expenses.

Participants on the current Steps to Work programme undertake a period of full time work experience or training of between 8 and 26 weeks. During this time they receive Benefit Based Training Allowance equivalent to their current rate of Social Security benefit plus a Top-up payment of £15.38 per week. They are also entitled to reimbursement of any travel costs exceeding £4.00 per week.

Eligible participants who require to have children cared for in their absence while undertaking this full-time period of work experience or training work may also claim for reimbursement of childcare costs.

The Steps 2 Success programme which will replace Steps to Work is still in development but it is anticipated that participants will also be reimbursed travel and childcare costs incurred as a direct result of participating on Steps 2 Success.

While Steps 2 Success will differ from the previous programme in that it will be more flexible, delivered over a period of up to 52 or 78 weeks and will not



prescribe the number of hours each week that participants are required to attend, they will still be paid a Top-up during any required period of full time activity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen Farry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

DR STEPHEN FARRY MLA
Minister for Employment and Learning

cc: The Speaker's Office
NIA Library