

FROM THE MINISTER



Mr Durkan MLA  
Northern Ireland Assembly  
Parliament Buildings  
Ballymiscaw  
Stormont  
Belfast  
BT4 3XX

Adelaide House  
39/49 Adelaide Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8FD  
Tel: 028 9025 7791  
Fax: 028 9025 7919  
email: private.office@delni.gov.uk

**Our ref:SUB/153/13**

25 April 2013

Dear *Mark*

On 16 April 2013 you asked a supplementary question to Oral Assembly Questions (AQO 3806 & 3810/11-15) in relation to the Youth Employment Scheme. You asked, "Is the Minister satisfied that his Executive colleagues are doing all that they can to help to support the scheme?"

In my response I indicated that I would be happy to provide you with more detailed figures on the level of public sector engagement.

In November last year I wrote to my Executive Colleagues asking for their support in securing work experience placements for the Steps to Work Programme and the Youth Employment Scheme (YES) in their departments and arms length bodies.

All Government Departments responded positively to my letter requesting their involvement in offering placements and all attended an information workshop held in February 2013.

Local Councils are actively involved with the Steps to Work programme and my officials and Steps to Work Lead Contractors continue to actively pursue placement opportunities across the public sector.

Since mid-November 2012 a total of 236 Steps to Work participants have been placed with a variety of public sector organisations throughout Northern Ireland.

My Department has advertised a total of 34 YES work experience opportunities and to date 6 young people have availed of opportunities. Start dates are being agreed with an additional number of young people



I appreciate your interest in the Youth Employment Scheme and I can assure you that my Department is making every effort to ensure that as many public sector work experience opportunities as possible are made available to unemployed young people.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Speaker, Business Office and Members who were present on 16<sup>th</sup> April. A copy will also be placed in the Assembly Library.

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 STRPHEN FARRY MLA**  
**Minister for Employment and Learning**