

Correspondence 3.5
Meeting – 12/01/2012

Director General's Office

Ms Eimear Lavelle
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2

21 December 2011

Dear Eimear

I refer to your recent letter to me regarding additional information sought by the Public Accounts Committee during its examination of the FÁS Annual report and Financial Statements 2010.

Mount Lucas Construction Courses

Construction related training was provided for 87 participants in 2010. This excludes training and educational interventions provided at this facility for non-construction related courses.

Labour Market Activation Fund

At the Committee meeting, I indicated that FÁS had one member of 'a steering committee or working group'. I wish to clarify that FÁS was not involved in the design or implementation of the Labour Market Activation Fund. In fact, one colleague participated in a tender evaluation process and also participated in a Steering Group which evaluated this programme. I understand that this query is being dealt with by the Department of Education & Skills.

Contact with the Unemployed

The information sought relates to the number of contacts made between FÁS and unemployed people with specific reference to those aged between 25 to 44. FÁS does not have information at this level of detail but I am advised that the average number of contacts does not vary significantly between the different age cohorts.

The average number of contacts arising from the referral process is 3.8. This includes:

- Group Engagement Sessions
- Client interviews with an Employment Services Officer
- Referral of the client to training and/or employment programmes
- Submissions of the client to job vacancies
- Other letter, phone and SMS contact with the client



While the average number of contacts is 3.8 for the above, there is a very considerable variation from this average based on the specific needs of the individuals concerned.

FÁS Survey

The aim of the two year survey carried out by FÁS is to determine participant outcomes over a period of approximately one year after exiting a FÁS programme. It also assesses the client's satisfaction with the programme and their judgment on its usefulness.

A survey is currently underway. It covers approximately 23,000 persons who completed programmes during the period June to September 2010. The number being surveyed is 1,500 and these are chosen randomly by reference to those leaving programmes.

Initial results are expected in February 2012 and a fuller report is expected to be published in mid-2012.

European Globalisation Fund Initiative

In all cases below the figures quoted include both EU and Irish Government contributions to the EGF initiative and have been rounded.

Dell

The estimated final drawdown for the DELL EGF Initiative (all elements) is €13.2 million which represents approximately 58% of the €22.8 million which had been approved. The FÁS component of this expenditure is €5.7 million or 95% of the €6 million which was available.

Waterford Crystal

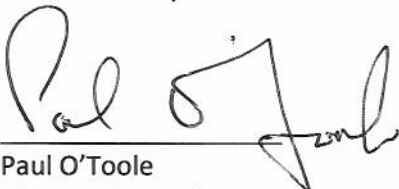
The estimated final drawdown for the Waterford Crystal EGF Initiative (FÁS component only) is €1.55 million which represents approximately 70% of the €2.23 million which had been approved.

SR Technics

The estimated final drawdown for the SR Technics EGF Initiative (FÁS component only) is €1.36 million which represents approximately 77% of the €1.77 million which had been approved.

I hope the above information meets the requirements of the Committee if further detail or clarity is required please let me know.

Yours sincerely



Paul O'Toole
Director General