

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection



Éilis Fallon,
Committee Secretariat,
Committee of Public Accounts,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

10 May 2019

Ref: PAC32-I-1408

Dear Ms Fallon,

I am writing to you in the context of the Committee's meeting on the 18th April and your subsequent letter of 30th April seeking additional material concerning the JobPath programme.

At its meeting of the 18th April, the Committee noted the latest independent customer satisfaction survey of the JobPath programme and the detailed econometric evaluation of the JobPath programme. This econometric evaluation was prepared by the Statistics and Business Intelligence Unit of the Department in collaboration with the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The evaluation indicates that JobPath has been successful in helping jobseekers not only to secure employment but to improve earnings in employment. The evaluation groups participants and non-participants in the JobPath programme into seven groupings or clusters (of similar characteristics) and assesses their employment and earnings outcomes. It shows that:

- JobPath participants improved their employment outcomes by **20%** compared to a matched group of non-participants;
- Participants who secured employment with the support of JobPath increased their average weekly earnings by **16%** compared to a matched group of non-participants who also secured employment;
- The overall impact was that people on JobPath increased employment earnings by **35%** compared to the matched group of non-participants; and
- The impacts were positive not only on an overall basis but for each of seven different clusters of jobseekers, with the positive employment earnings impact ranging from

24% for people with a prior history of being very long term unemployed to **100%** for those people with prior history of intermittent employment.

In summary, the evaluation indicates that the JobPath service helps get people into work and at higher earnings than they would otherwise have received if they had secured employment without the support of JobPath. The econometric evaluation coupled with the independent customer satisfaction research demonstrates that the JobPath service is successful in improving both employment outcomes and the level of earnings of participants, while it is considered a positive experience by the majority of people who participated in the customer satisfaction survey

In terms of the specific queries raised in your letter dated the 18th April, under the Department's contract with the JobPath providers, the Department can continue to refer jobseekers to the service until the 31st December 2019. A run off period of two years is provided in the contract to ensure that jobseekers who are referred at the end of this period continue to receive the benefit of the full JobPath service, which can last up to 24 months depending on individual circumstances. The contracts contain a renewal clause, which allows the Department, to extend the period for referring jobseekers for one or two 12 month periods beyond the 31st December 2019.

The Department is currently reviewing its contracted public employment services with a view to ensuring that we continue to provide an effective, and well resourced, service to the individuals who need our support. The econometric evaluation into JobPath and the reports by Indecon into the other contracted public employment service providers (Local Employment Service and the Job Clubs), are important inputs into this review. No decision has been made at this stage as to whether new contracts will be tendered or whether any existing contracts will be renewed or terminated. I trust that this information clarifies the position for you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niall Egan', is written over a horizontal line.

Niall Egan

Assistant Secretary

Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection