Dear Tracy Brabin,

At the Technical and Further Education Bill Committee meeting yesterday, I promised to write to inform you about the work that The Careers & Enterprise Company is doing within your constituency and the wider Leeds City Region.

The Careers & Enterprise Company is very active in this region. It has 82 Enterprise Advisers engaged in the Enterprise Adviser Network, which support schools with careers education planning. Over 100 schools have been recruited to the network. Heckmondwike Grammar School, Spen Valley High School, Upper Batley High School, and Whitcliffe Mount are the schools within Batley and Spen that have signed up to the Enterprise Adviser Network. Currently The Careers & Enterprise Company has four Enterprise Coordinators working for the LEP to support this work. This will be increased to six by January 2017, one of which will be working exclusively with 20 work-based learning providers to pilot how we can better support the apprenticeship agenda.

Since its inception in December 2014, The Careers & Enterprise Company has taken a lead role in transforming the provision of careers, enterprise and employer engagement experiences for young people, to inspire them and prepare them for the world of work. However, changes will not happen overnight. I fully expect there to be a significant increase in the proportion of people in apprenticeships as we are committed to reaching three million apprenticeships in England by 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP
Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills