



Lord Agnew Kt DL

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The Earl of Listowel
House of Lords
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Dear Lord Listowel,

Thank you for your question in the House on Monday 13 May, when I committed to write to you regarding the numbers of care leavers starting and completing apprenticeships.

The government recognises the particular financial disadvantages that care leavers face as they transition to the world of work, including apprenticeships, and we are committed to supporting them.

In August 2018, we introduced a bursary for care leavers starting apprenticeships. This bursary of £1,000 is available to all care leavers aged 16-24 and paid directly to them. We also meet 100 per cent of the training costs for apprenticeships started by all 16 to 18-year-olds and 19 to 24-year-old care leavers. We pay an additional £1000 to employers and training providers taking on apprentices from these groups.

My department does not hold data on the numbers of care leavers starting or completing apprenticeships in the same way that it does for apprentices with learning difficulties and disabilities, or from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Data on the numbers of care leavers starting or participating in apprenticeships are not collected as part of the department's statistical releases on further education and skills. The Individualised Learner Record (ILR) contains data on apprenticeship learners but does not collect sufficient information to robustly identify learners who are in care or have been in care.

I hope this answer has been useful; a copy will be placed in the libraries of both Houses.


THEODORE AGNEW