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Daniel Johnson MSP
Convener – Economy and Fair Work Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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By email

02 February 2026

Dear Daniel,

Thank you for the committee's time when I gave evidence on 21 January.

I offered to provide Stephen Kerr MSP with further evidence on the number of people progressing through Scotland's devolved employability support programme into full time employment.

Firstly, I wanted to highlight that the Scottish Government publishes statistical bulletins on No One Left Behind on a quarterly basis. This includes detailed breakdowns of the characteristics and circumstances of those accessing devolved support, including data broken down by disability, parental status and reported barriers to employment. The most recent bulletin was published in October 2025, and is available here: [Scotland's Devolved Employment Services: No One Left Behind Statistical Summary October 2025 - gov.scot](https://gov.scot/Scotland's-Devolved-Employment-Services-No-One-Left-Behind-Statistical-Summary-October-2025). Of the 92,523 people supported under the No One Left Behind approach between April 2019 and June 2025, 28,699 people (31%) entered employment.

These statistics are based on direct returns from Local Authorities. It includes information on numbers of participants who have started employment, and the numbers of participants for whom sufficient time has elapsed to have achieved sustained employment outcomes. It is currently not possible from this data to reliably provide information on the type of employment that participants have entered at this stage. Furthermore, the publication also makes clear that employment outcome numbers are likely to be an underestimate, owing to the method of data collection employed.

You will be interested to note that efforts are underway to improve accuracy through data sharing and linkages with the UK Government, which will provide more reliable information around pay, working hours and contract type for those moving into employment from our services, and reducing the impact of underestimating outcomes achieved by removing the reliance on manual follow-up.

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Evidence on those moving into full time work from devolved employability services is available through evaluation publications. The [No One Left Behind implementation evaluation](#) found that of service users who were no longer accessing support at the time of the survey, 27% were working full-time, 20% part-time and 2% self-employed. Previous [evaluation evidence for Fair Start Scotland](#) indicates that at the time of the survey, 41% of people in the 2021-22 cohort were working, and of these, 57% worked 30+ hours, 26% worked 16-29 hours. Given the differences in these approaches to delivery of devolved services, and the methodological differences in how the data was collected, the percentages presented are not directly comparable.

Further evaluation and research evidence on the Fair Start Scotland participants and the experiences of No One Left Behind participants will be available in the coming months.

I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,



KATE FORBES

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