

Sue Webber, MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People
Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

April 2024

Dear Convener,

INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNT SCHEME

I am writing to provide an update on the final position on the Individual Training Account (ITA) Scheme for financial year 2024/25.

As you may be aware, in 2023/24 due to significant budget pressures, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) were only able to accept up to 6,000 ITA applications and the scheme was open from 19 June to 20 July 2023. This year, as the unprecedented challenges on the budget of the Scottish Government and its agencies continue, no funds exist in the SDS budget allocation for the delivery of the ITA scheme in 2024/25.

This is the most challenging budget to be delivered under devolution and Ministers have taken decisive steps to ensure Scotland's public finances remain on a sustainable trajectory. Hard choices have had to be made to maximise spend on key programmes, including apprenticeships.

We recognise that the many individuals who have benefited from or were planning to apply for an ITA will be disappointed at the discontinuation of the scheme in 2024/25. However, any individuals who applied to the scheme in 2023/24 and have had their applications verified will still have 12 months to complete their training. My officials are working closely with SDS to ensure all applicants verified in financial year 2023/24 will have the opportunity to undertake the training of their choice and that any training that has already been committed will be delivered.

Support for people who are out of work or working parents will continue to be available through other Scottish Government initiatives, such as the No One Left Behind, delivered at a local authority level through the local employability partnerships.

Individuals looking for training opportunities and funding can also continue to contact SDS for advice on available options and access SDS career advice and support services, as well as their online learning portal that offers access to a wide range online learning including free courses.

GRAEME DEY MSP
Minister for Higher Education, Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

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