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*Dear Meg*

**THIRTY-NINTH REPORT OF SESSION 2021-22 DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND  
PENSIONS EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT: KICKSTART SCHEME– UPDATE**

In the Committee's report on the Kickstart Scheme (HC655), recommendation 5.1 asked the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to provide an update in May 2022 on work undertaken to ensure that Kickstart participants receive the experience and employability support they have been promised. I am writing to update you on the progress of this.

The department has considered options for undertaking sample checks to assess whether the employability support is delivered as set out in the employer's grant application, as referenced in the Treasury Minute published on 26 April 2022.

The department considers that this recommendation has been implemented. The Kickstart evaluation team contact a sample of over 1,000 young people each month and over 1,400 employers and gateway organisations over the course of the scheme. Responses to the departments' evaluation surveys suggest that instances of employers offering no employability support or training are rare. The department therefore concludes that a sample-check audit approach to checking employer compliance is not likely to be effective.

The department already has an existing robust quality assurance regime. Young people in a Kickstart Scheme job can raise any issues or concerns about their job with their work coach or Jobcentre Plus at any stage. At voluntary month one and month four interventions young people are specifically asked if they are receiving employability support.

The department will continue (until the final Kickstart placements are completed in September 2022) with a risk-assessment based approach to intervention with employers, based on evidence shared by young people with their work coach or Jobcentre Plus.

*Your sincerely*  
*Peter Schofield*

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