

Jim McMahon OBE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Level 3
Civic Centre
West Street
OL1 1UG

Our Ref: SM/WILK01005/01170735

19 December 2017

Dear Dr Wilkins

Please find enclosed a copy of a reply I have received in response to my letter on your behalf. This response concerns work experience opportunities for schoolchildren.

I hope the reply is helpful. If not, or if you wish to respond to the letter, please do not hesitate to contact my office again.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim McMahon".

Jim McMahon OBE MP
Member of Parliament
Oldham West & Royton

Encl.

Serving the Communities of Chadderton, Royton and Oldham



2017-0057014POAM

Rt Hon Anne Milton MP
Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills and Minister for Women
Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Jim McMahon OBE MP
By email: jim.mcmahon.mp@parliament.uk

Your ref: SM/DEPA01005/01170734

Dear Jim

14th December

Thank you very much for your letter of 24 November, addressed to the Secretary of State, on behalf of Oldham Council, about the work experience opportunities that are available to schoolchildren. I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area.

Preparing students for adult life is one of the department's top priorities, and experience of work and the wider links between education and employers play a vital part in this. Work experience and work placements inspire young people, helping them decide on future careers and demonstrating their potential to future employers or universities. They can be structured either to support young people to achieve specific vocational qualifications, or to support the development of their employability, skills, and experience, which employers say are critical when recruiting.

Activities involving employers, such as careers insights, mentoring, work tasters and work experience are all vital in giving young people the skills they need to succeed. Our careers statutory guidance makes it clear that schools should offer work placements, work experience and other employer-based activities as part of their careers strategy for year 8-13 pupils.

We are also providing valuable support for schools through The Careers and Enterprise Company, which is working to increase the level of employer input into schools and colleges. We want more young people to have the opportunity to take part in high-quality work experience that helps to prepare them for the workplace and begins to develop the skills needed by employers.

For that reason, we took the decision to remove the statutory obligation for work experience in order to allow schools the freedom and autonomy to decide how they provide work-related learning at key stage 4. Schools can choose which types of encounters are most appropriate, of which a traditional 'work experience' placement may be one, but which will not be appropriate for all young people and all school circumstances.

I hope that this helps in replying to Oldham Council.

Foot as follows



Rt Hon Anne Milton MP

Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills and Minister for Women