Oral Question

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes Conservative)

In my constituency at this time of year when there is seasonal work, things are not so bad, but there up to 470 young people under 24 claiming Jobseekers Allowance at other times of the year. Can the Secretary of State clarify what measures will be taken to boost apprenticeships to give young people better life chances.

Iain Duncan Smith (Secretary of State, Work and Pensions)

Yes I can. As my hon. Friends knows, we made provision in the Budget for more than 50,000 new apprenticeships. It is also worth remembering that one thing that the last Government set in train, and would have introduced had they been returned, was a hike in national insurance, which would have damaged any prospect of young people in her constituency being in long term viable jobs. There is a good story to tell, which could not have happened if we had not taken over and found savings within the budget in our first year.

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