Written Question

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships were created in Totnes constituency in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the number to be created in the next 12 months.

John Hayes (Minister of State (Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning), Business, Innovation and Skills)

There were 450 apprenticeship starts in Totnes parliamentary constituency in 2009/10, the latest year for which full year data are available.

The apprenticeships programme is demand led; Government does not set targets for apprenticeships but provides funding and forecasts the overall number of places that may be afforded. We rely on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities to meet local demand.

This is underpinned by this Government's commitment that by 2014-15, we will have in place sufficient funding for 75,000 more adult apprenticeship places than the previous Government were providing.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January: The Data Service

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of apprenticeship starts by gender for Totnes parliamentary constituency for 2009/10, the latest year for which full year data are available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Female Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Male Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>210</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Notes: 1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Percentages are calculated based on
unrounded figures.

2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

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Both the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, and the Department for Education are responsible for the promotion of equality of access to apprenticeships. The National Apprenticeships Service (NAS), as the body responsible for promoting apprenticeships to employers and to potential apprentices, manages its systems to ensure equal access to information about the programme and to apprenticeship vacancies. A priority for NAS is to address stereotyping and under-representation across apprenticeships including gender, race and disability.

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