



**JobBridge- An Scéim Náisiúnta
Intéirneachta**
An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Teach Goldsmith
Sráid an Phiarsaigh
Baile Átha Cliath 2



www.jobbridge.ie

**JobBridge- The National Internship
Scheme**
Department of Social Protection
Goldsmith House
Pearse Street
Dublin 2

30 April, 2014

Our ref: REPS 2014-4879

Mr. Jimmy Kelly
Irish Regional Secretary
UNITE
15, Merrion Square
Dublin 2

Re: Youth Guarantee

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I am directed by the Minister for Social Protection to reply to your correspondence of 20th March, 2014, as follows.

The introduction of non-discretionary participation in the Youth Guarantee variant of JobBridge is considered to be an important element of the initiative. The 1,500 individuals who will be referred to the scheme will be those who are considered to be in most need of a more intensive activation intervention.

The Department bears a responsibility to all its clients as well as to the taxpayer to ensure that those who are considered to be most in need of a more intensive activation intervention receive it in order to put them decisively on the path to employment.

The Minister is aware that the general situation for jobseekers is difficult. The Department has made extensive efforts to facilitate, to incentivize, to motivate and to activate jobseekers back to employment. Through this initiative, and particularly through the non-discretionary element and the application of penalty rates for non-participation, the Department will incentivize and motivate that small number of jobseekers onto the path to employment. However, the main JobBridge scheme remains voluntary both for host organisations and prospective interns.

Yours faithfully,

Adèle Ryan
Assistant Principal Officer
JobBridge Team
Department of Social Protection