



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ83530

Andrew R.T. Davies MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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29 November 2021

Dear Andrew,

I write in response to WQ83709 regarding: How many HGV drivers has the Welsh Government helped to *retrain* under ReAct or through other programmes in each of the last 10 years?

The figures provided for both the **ReAct** and **Access** programmes are derived from programme management information collected by Welsh Government and are not published as official statistics. The figures are based on the expected start date of training and not the dates on which the grants were awarded: some grants may have been awarded in the preceding calendar year.

Please note also that some programme participants were awarded grants to undertake only HGV Class 2 (now known as LGV C) (rigid lorry) training, only HGV Class 1 (now known as LGV C+E) (articulated lorry) training or both and the figures provided reflect the number of *courses* for which grants were awarded and not unique participants.

Access Programme

The Access programme ran in the Valleys Task Force area between September 2017 and September 2020. The programme merged with the ReAct programme in September 2020. Table 1: Number of grants awarded for HGV training programmes under the Access programme, calendar years 2017 to 2020:

Calendar Year	Number of grants awarded
2017	3
2018	110
2019	208
2020	177

ReAct Programme

Table 2: Number of grants awarded for HGV training programmes under the ReAct programme, calendar years 2011 to 2021:

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Calendar Year	Number of grants awarded
2011	230
2012	111
2013	112
2014	100
2015	115
2016	129
2017	103
2018	80
2019	78
2020	167
2021	271

LGV Pilot Programme

Between November 2015 and March 2016, the Welsh Government ran a short LGV driver training pilot programme in collaboration with Jobcentre Plus. Management information collected by Welsh Government officials show that the pilot programme supported 137 individuals to obtain LGV C licences and, of these, 73 people also acquired the LGV C+E licence

Apprenticeships

The table below is based on published official statistics and details the number of starts under the 'Driving Goods Vehicles' Apprenticeship framework on an academic year basis. The data collected via the Lifelong Learning Wales Record does not include the specific framework pathway being followed by the learner, so we are unable to specify whether the starts are in HGV frameworks or whether the individuals were retraining.

Table 3: Number of 'Driving Goods Vehicles' apprenticeship learning programme starts, academic years 2012/13 to 2019/20

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
65	180	50	20	25	65	65	65

Note: numbers are rounded to the nearest 5.

Personal Learning Accounts

There has been 15 HGV course starts with an additional 45 places available for commencement. This information has been collected from our delivery partners and is unverified by Welsh Government. This Programme and its delivery is in its early stages and we are unable to advise whether courses have been successfully completed.

In a joint initiative with the Economy Minister and the Minister for Education and Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles, an additional £10m is being made available to boost Personal Learning Accounts. This will enable further education colleges to deliver additional courses and qualifications in priority sectors facing labour shortages, including logistics. Funding will

be targeted at driver training by offering courses to new potential drivers, provide refresher training for those who may be seeking a return to the sector; and where possible to train and increase the number of instructors and examiners available to conduct driving tests. Officials are currently evaluating bids before informing colleges of their allocations in early December.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'V'.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Economi

Minister for Economy