



June 2024

We are moving forward

Transformation training plan for craft apprenticeships in 2024

We are delighted to report a big increase in the number of craft apprentices completing training so far this year, and a corresponding drop in the number of apprentices delayed in their phase 2 training.

Almost 9,000 apprentices are completing phase 2, 4 and 6 training so far (January-June) and a similar amount of training is planned for the second half of the year.

Over €200m is being spent on craft training, additional new workshops and extra instructors around the country, to provide timely off-the-job training for all apprentices.

Finishing in 4 years

The extra training places mean that apprentices on 21 of the 25 craft apprenticeships are now able to finish in a four year timeframe. Unfortunately, 4 apprenticeships still have delays:

- Electrical Instrumentation
- Mechanical Automotive Maintenance Fitter (MAMF)
- Pipefitting
- Plumbing

However additional training in the second half of the year should enable apprentices on all craft programmes to finish in this timeframe.

For example, delays for Pipefitting apprentices have been worked on intensively and 350 training places at phases 2, 4 and 6 will be provided this year, so that by the end of 2024, training delays for Pipefitting will be eliminated. This focused approach is being taken for all apprenticeships where delays arise.

Phase 2

Although apprentices may be waiting up to 12 months to be called for phase 2 training this does not mean that it will take longer than four years to complete the apprenticeship.

Where apprentices are delayed in their apprenticeship, the final phase 7 can be completed in an accelerated time of to 1-3 weeks rather than 12 weeks.

Keeping in contact

Along with creating extra training places, we understand the importance of updating apprentices

and employers on progress.

This June 2024 update is being shared on the national apprenticeship social media platforms and apprentices are encouraged to speak with their Training Advisor.

The National Apprenticeship Office is coordinating the 2024 training plan on behalf of SOLAS and the HEA, working with training providers across further and higher education.

We will continue to drive forward on eliminating the craft training delays and transforming the experience for apprentices on whose skills Ireland relies.

All the very best to everyone over the summer months.

