

DÁIL ÉIREANN

Fógraí Tairisceana: Notices of Motions

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

“That Dáil Éireann:

notes that:

- JobPath was set up by Fine Gael and the Labour Party in July 2015, with the aim of assisting the long-term unemployed to secure and sustain employment;
- contracts to deliver JobPath on behalf of the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection were signed with two private companies – Turas Nua and Seetec;
- between July 2015 and January 2019 some 205,000 people have engaged with either Turas Nua or Seetec following referral by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection;
- as of January 2019, over 21,000 people had been referred to JobPath for a second time having previously completed the scheme in full;
- as of November 2018, Turas Nua and Seetec had received €149 million of taxpayers' money between them;
- as of November 2018, out of the 190,000 people referred to JobPath at that stage, just nine per cent (i.e. 17,100 people) had secured employment which had been sustained for at least one year, at a cost of €3,718 per person;
- where an individual is referred to JobPath for a second time, Turas Nua and Seetec received double payments; and
- JobPath has engaged with 24,185 people (as of October 2018) who are working part-time and also with people who have been referred to another job activation scheme;

further notes that:

- the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection has hailed JobPath as the most successful job activation scheme in the history of the State, however, the employment outcomes for JobPath do not reflect this claim;
- other job activation schemes are suffering as a result of the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection's preference to refer people to JobPath over all other community-based schemes;
- referrals to the Local Employment Service are down across the State and thousands of vacancies in Community Employment schemes, which provide vital benefits to local communities, cannot be filled; and
- research recently presented to the Oireachtas Committee for Employment Affairs and Social Protection from Waterford Institute of Technology concluded that ‘they (participants) felt actively and capriciously patronised, cajoled, threatened, manipulated and bullied’; and

calls on the Government and the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection to:

- immediately cease all referrals to the JobPath service and end the mandatory nature of the scheme;
- end the contract with the JobPath providers as soon as possible without any extension;
- properly resource and expand existing job activation schemes which are community-

based, including:

- the Local Employment Service;
- Adult Guidance Services;
- Community Employment;
- Rural Social Scheme;
- Tús; and
- Job Clubs;
- invest in the Back to Education Allowance scheme, Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme, and any other available training and education schemes;
- end the use of ‘payment by results’ models in job activation schemes;
- examine the significant international research on the consequences of sanctioning, including the short-term impacts, such as poverty, and the long-term impacts on health and well-being; and
- focus on an ‘individual first’ approach rather than the ‘work first’ approach pursued by JobPath, acknowledging that one size does not fit all and some jobseekers would benefit more from upskilling through apprenticeships, education, training and work experience rather than an ‘any job will do’ attitude.” — *John Brady, Gerry Adams, Pat Buckley, Seán Crowe, David Cullinane, Pearse Doherty, Dessie Ellis, Martin J. Ferris, Kathleen Funchion, Martin Kenny, Mary Lou McDonald, Denise Mitchell, Imelda Munster, Jonathan O'Brien, Eoin Ó Broin, Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Louise O'Reilly, Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Maurice Quinlivan, Brian Stanley.*