

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAO: LOCAL REPORTERS

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**13,855 MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS IN FIFE IN TEN YEARS
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SECURING SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE**



David Torrance MSP at a visit to the Little Einsteins Nursery in Kirkcaldy on Friday.

The Scottish Government has supported 13,855 Modern Apprenticeships in Fife in ten years - with 37,000 young people currently going through an apprenticeship in Scotland.

Many areas in Scotland have experienced an increase in MA uptake of over 80% in the last 10 years – with 71.7% more MA starts in Fife compared to 2007.

The Little Einsteins Nursery in Kirkcaldy currently has four modern apprentices, who have benefitted from developing their skills in a working nursery environment. Local SNP MSP for Kirkcaldy Constituency, David Torrance MSP, visited the nursery to see the apprentices at work and to discuss their apprenticeship experiences.

Speaking at the visit, David Torrance MSP commented:

“I am delighted that as we celebrate this year’s Scottish Apprenticeship Week, the latest statistics show that the SNP Government has supported over 200,000 apprentices in 10 years.

“Across Fife, we’ve seen significant growth in the number of apprenticeships since 2007 – increasing from 1,010 to 1,734 in 2015/16.

“I would encourage all businesses to think about how their business could benefit from taking on an apprentice.”

David was joined at Little Einsteins by Ed Blackburn from Skills Development Scotland, and Marion Francis at Thistle Training Services. David, Ed and Marion were shown around the nursery by Deputy Manager Leanne Ferguson, who explained how the apprentices had been integrated and has learned from their work.

Ed Blackburn, from Skills Development Scotland, commented:

“It’s really satisfying to know that these apprenticeships have helped to learn new skills, work and learn while on the job, and give the apprentices the potential to continue their careers into the future.”

The SNP manifesto has committed to delivering 30,000 apprenticeships each year by 2020, up from 15,000 when we took office, targeting the additional places on higher level courses, including graduate-level apprenticeships.

David Torrance MSP added:

“The Scottish Government’s extra investment and focus over the last decade has transformed apprenticeships - building bridges with industry, filling skills gaps and enhancing productivity, while giving our young people the skills they need to be at the forefront of our economy and our jobs market.

“We delivered on our manifesto target of reaching 25,000 Modern Apprenticeships each year back in 2011-12 and we have now raised that target to 30,000 per year by 2020.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR:

National Apprenticeship Week took place last week, from 6th to 10th March 2017.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/>

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