

ProAct (Workforce Development Programme) Public Brief 22 January 2009

ProAct is a new pilot scheme which was announced at the 3rd Economic Summit on the 5th December 2008. The scheme seeks to provide training assistance to businesses that are suffering during the economic downturn, but who otherwise were inherently viable. The scheme runs on a selective basis, and provides financial support for employees to undertake training and, as an innovative new measure, also provides support towards wage costs whilst training is underway. The scheme is flexible and designed to meet the needs of individual businesses. Funding of up to £2000 per individual is available to support training, and a further £2,000 for a wage subsidy whilst this training is being undertaken.

The scheme is running in pilot mode between January and March 2009. However, following the announcement of the successful ESF bids, the scheme is now open to other sectors who have been identified as priority sectors by the Department for Economy and Transport.

Companies who wish to apply must meet the following criteria;

- That they were inherently viable/competitive prior to the economic downturn
- They are able to demonstrate that they are currently on short-hours working to a minimum of 20% (1 day a week) and that,
- They are considering redundancies should they not be able to secure funding from ProAct

A maximum level of funding per company is £200,000 for the training support and £200,000 for the wage subsidy – based on a total of £4,000 per individual to comply with European State Aid. Within these amounts the scheme is flexible to meet the needs of the company.

ProAct is targeted at inherently competitive businesses in the priority sectors for the Welsh economy. The main focus for the pilot work is the Automotive sector and accordingly, officials are working closely with the Welsh Automotive Forum, Welsh Manufacturing Forum, SEMTA, and representatives from DE&T to help companies through the application process and help them access funding that may be available to them to help prepare for the economic upturn.

Sectors outside of the Automotive sector are still able to apply for funding and should in the first instance contact the Hotline on 0845 60 661 60 to register their interest and to receive the necessary information and forms.

ProAct and Apprenticeships

Following discussions with employers and industry representatives we are able to offer support for the continuation of Apprenticeship places through ProAct. Employers wishing to apply for support for Apprentices should complete the business case clearly detailing the support that is needed. In this case the funding provided under ProAct will be limited to the wage subsidy element as the funding for training will continue to be met from within existing provision.

Contact Details

Contact details for Businesses wishing to log interest in participating

Business Skills Team

Contact details

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