

# Skillsafe

## Locking in Support for Apprentices During the Recession

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# Skillsafe Project

people:skills:jobs:



- When an Apprentice has been placed on short time working as a result of the recession, we will fill the down time with training and pay them a training allowance to offset the loss of earnings
- Up to £2000 (~ €2300) for training costs
- Up to £2005.50 for a training allowance
  - Paid at the National Minimum Wage Rate (£5.73 per hour)
  - Enough for 10 weeks full time
- Initially open to companies in the manufacturing engineering industry and will be expanded to include tradable services
- Part Funded by the European Social Fund

# Why Apprentices?

people:skills:jobs:



- In Northern Ireland we currently have over 10,000 apprentices across all sectors - we have invested over £17million in the last two years in apprenticeship provision and we want to protect our existing investment
- Apprentices are a vital part of the skills pipeline - we need to keep the pipeline full to prepare for the economic recovery
- As apprentices are relatively cheap and less productive (compared to experienced workers) they are an easy target for cuts
- Fits with 'Employment Support' strand of the European Economic Recovery Plan as announced by the President of the European Commission last year

# Why Manufacturing Engineering and Tradable Services?

- Had to select priorities due to budget constraints
- Both of high value to the local economy and provide highly skilled and well paid jobs to approximately 50,000 workers.
- Both sectors make positive contribution to our Balance of Payments given their strong export potential
- For Manufacturing Engineering, it also currently employs a large number of apprentices.
- Expect Recovery – strong order books for 2010

# What Training is involved?

- Each project will be different and will be designed to meet the needs of each apprentice
- Look to place apprentice back with normal training provider to ensure they can continue their planned training
- Could include other relevant training such as team-working or problem solving
- Could include work based learning at employer's premises

# What happens next?

- Project Launched on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009 – 21 enquiries on Day One
- Review every six months
- Work begun on Strand Two which would aim to put in place similar support for SME employees in the same industrial sectors

# Questions?

- Thank you for listening.