



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions



Cabinet Office



Department  
for Business  
Innovation & Skills



Department  
for Education

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## YOUNG PEOPLE IN WORK - ENCOURAGING WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS

This Government is committed to improving prospects for today's young people in the world of work. For example, we are supporting young people into work through a range of policies including Apprenticeships, work experience wage subsidies and sector-based work academy places. Making it as easy as possible for employers to take on work experience students underpins this commitment and is vital for tackling youth unemployment.

Many businesses have told us that they are confused by health and safety rules for work experience students, and are unclear whether their existing Employers' Liability Compulsory Insurance (ELCI) policies provide cover for work experience students.

Through this letter, the Government wishes to confirm that the insurance industry has committed to treat work experience students as employees for the purposes of insurance against bodily injury under an ELCI policy and that simply giving work experience opportunities to students will not impact on ELCI premiums.

In addition, the Health & Safety Executive is currently drafting a short guidance note that will provide better clarity on employers' obligations with regard to performing a risk assessment for such placements. They will make it clear, for example, that if workplace risk has already been assessed with young people in mind, a business does not need to repeat this for a new student: a risk assessment should be undertaken with tasks in mind, not individual people.

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