

Department for Work and Pensions

Work Choice Live Running Memo

To: Work Choice Providers **From:** Work Programmes Division

Memo Serial Number: LR13 **Date:** 3 August 2012

Subject: Remploy Factory Closures and the First Shot Programme

Action: For Information

Timing: Immediate

Background

1. On the 10th July Maria Miller MP, Minister for Disabled People, made a statement about the future of specialist disability employment following the independent review by disability expert Liz Sayce. The statement included an announcement that 27 Remploy factories would close between July and December 2012.
2. Remploy workers who are affected will receive a comprehensive package of support and guidance to make the transition from Government funded sheltered employment into mainstream jobs. Part of this support package is the First Shot programme. First Shot is an employer engagement programme offering targeted opportunities to Remploy employees.
3. This memo is being issued to give you an overview of the arrangements.

Overview

4. Employers' Forum on Disability (EFD) members will offer targeted work opportunities for disabled people through First Shot. This will include guaranteed interviews, job trials, work experience and training.
5. Remploy will work closely with EFD to ensure that their members are effectively engaged and supported in their delivery of First Shot, to maximise work opportunities for former Remploy members of staff.
6. Remploy will manage the engagement at local level with EFD members, co-ordinating as required with employers at a national level, providing support in creating appropriate vacancies, matching individuals to those vacancies and facilitating their transition into sustainable employment.
7. Opportunities will be exclusive to redundant Remploy employees via Remploy's 'Affinity' database. Work Choice providers and personal case workers in Jobcentre Plus will have access to this database.

- 8 Customers joining Work Choice (suggested by the personal case worker within Jobcentre Plus) are eligible to apply for these opportunities and on-going in work support via First Shot for 18 months.
- 9 Work Choice providers will be encouraged to use First Shot for Remploy employees; however, this will complement their own provision rather than replace it.

Further Information

10. The [full announcement](#) from Maria Miller MP can be found on the DWP website.
11. Remploy will be holding a telekit for Work Choice providers to discuss access to the Affinity database and talk through the process in more detail. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 August at 11:30 until 12:30. The dial in details are:
Telephone: xxxx
Participant code: xxxxxx
12. For further information or queries regarding this memo, please email the central queries inbox for disability programmes:
specialist.disabilityprogrammequeries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk