

# BERR

Department for Business  
Enterprise & Regulatory Reform

Department for  
**Innovation,  
Universities &  
Skills**

## Help for employers to prepare for the upturn

A new service providing employers with easy access to free advice and support has been launched as part of the Government's commitment to provide 'real help now' for business.

As part of the Government's Solutions for Business initiative, the Train to Gain skills brokerage service has come together with Business Link to provide a comprehensive information, diagnostic and brokerage service, making Business Link the main route to all government support for business.

The new service aims to simplify access to information for employers and offers free, impartial advice to help them improve and grow their businesses, and encourage them to develop a more highly skilled and qualified workforce.

By contacting Business Link on **0845 600 9006**, employers can talk to a local broker who will give advice about what specific training could help that business thrive. The broker can explain where courses are on offer, direct them to suitable local training providers and explain how to access funding.

Skills and Apprenticeships Minister Lord Young said:

“We are committed to providing real help for businesses to help them weather the downturn, and prepare for the upturn.

“The challenging economic climate means it has never been more important to ensure that employers get access to the support and advice they need – quickly and easily. The new brokerage service will help make sure that happens.

“By using the service, businesses of all sizes can receive free, impartial advice on how they can develop a more highly skilled and qualified workforce so that they're in a strong position to take advantage of the upturn, when it comes.”

Minister for Business, Ian Pearson, said:

"To succeed in a competitive global environment UK businesses need ongoing access to help and support.

“That’s why the Government is committed to helping businesses in the areas they tell us matter- in access to finance and skills.

“The Train to Gain skills brokerage service will provide targeted, free and practical advice for Businesses, helping them to better develop a highly skilled and innovative workforce. Something which is even more crucial in the current economic climate.”

Mike Carr, East Midlands Development Agency’s Executive Director of Business Services, said:

“The move to further align access to the Train to Gain skills support package through the Business Link service is good news for companies in the region and their employees. It will make it easier for businesses to identify the learning requirements of their staff, alongside their wider business needs.

“We believe that the development of employees is a vital part in ensuring the future of businesses in these challenging times.”

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### Notes to Editors

1. In October 2008 Train to Gain became part of the Solutions for Business portfolio, the government’s simplified package of business support products. The integrated brokerage service means businesses will find it easier to get real help and the advice they need, on skills and other common business issues, in one place.
2. From 1 April 2009, both Train to Gain Business Link brokers will come together in a new service under the Business Link brand. Business Link will be the primary channel to all government support for business under the Solutions for Business umbrella.
3. Employers can contact Business Link on **0845 600 9006**. Callers will be referred to a local broker who can give advice about what specific training could help that business increase productivity. The broker can explain where courses are on offer, and link up with suitable providers in the area – they know what local colleges offer the courses that can meet employers’ needs. The broker can also explain how to access funding.

Information on the help available on skills issues is also available via the website [www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk)

4. For more information please contact Lorna Fletcher in the DIUS Press Office 020 3300 8927, or Roisin Wilson in the BERR Press Office 020 7215 5978.