

SKILLS PLEDGE

TRAIN TO GAIN FACTSHEET	
Summary	Launched in June 2007, the Skills Pledge is a voluntary, public commitment by the leadership of a company or organisation to support all of its employees to develop their skills, including literacy and numeracy basic skills and work towards relevant, valuable qualifications to at least their first Level 2. The purpose is to ensure that all staff are skilled, competent and able to make a full contribution to the success of the company/organisation.
Location	Nationwide
Timing	There is no deadline by which organisations must fulfil their Skills Pledge
Why	The Leitch Report on Skills states that if the UK economy is to compete with other advanced economies and new emerging economies such as India and China we will have to invest more in Skills. The Skills Pledge recognises that everyone – the employee, the organisation and the Government – will need to invest more in skills.
How	The Skills Pledge can be made by calling 0800 015 55 45 or contacting a Business Link Skills Advisor. Employers are now able to make the Skills Pledge independently, by filling out the online form via the Skills Pledge website (link below).
Key contact	Dave Eagles – Skills Support Advisor at david.eagles@lsc.gov.uk or on 01752 754099
Website	www.inourhands.lsc.gov.uk/employers-pledge.html

Key messages

The Skills Pledge is an opportunity for the leaders of a business or organisation to show publicly and demonstrably the importance they place on investing in the skills of their people.

Without a better skilled and qualified workforce, we will not improve our productivity and therefore, we will not sustain the living standards and quality of public services we all want.

The Skills Pledge can be made by a Chief Executive, Owner/Manager, or other board member on behalf of the organisation.

The Skills Pledge is not a contractual commitment. It is not legally binding on the organisation. Its value is as a signal of voluntary commitment and partnership between management and employees to develop the skills of the staff and so support the success of the organisation.

The Government will provide public funds through the Train to Gain programme to help employers deliver the Skills Pledge in England.

Through Train to Gain, the Government will also help employers develop a wider training programme to meet their full training needs, including help with Level 3 qualifications; access to the Apprenticeships programme as well as additional and higher level qualifications for staff who already have some qualifications, and management and leadership development for SMEs.

The Skills Pledge is open to all employers of all sizes in the private, public and voluntary sectors.