

## HALF OF WEST COUNTRY EMPLOYERS HAVE NO TRAINING PLAN IN PLACE

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Over half (51%) of employees in the West Country say their employers have no formal training plans in place for the coming year – despite the growing need for a skilled workforce.

That's the finding of a new survey conducted on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council's Train to Gain programme<sup>1</sup>, which explored the level of training provided for employees across all sectors in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Bath and North East Somerset.

While 72% of respondents are regularly offered training, the research also revealed that a staggering 11% feel they do not receive adequate training to carry out their jobs effectively. What's more, almost a fifth (19%) believe their employer does not value training highly.

The results come as the Government warns that skills and training are becoming increasingly important for the survival of UK businesses. In fact, Treasury research has shown that within a decade there will be very few unskilled jobs as new technologies continue to emerge and the economy becomes increasingly global<sup>2</sup>.

Developing the right skills is fundamental to business success. Employers often recognise the need to train but clearly do not always address that need. The fact that almost half of the West Country's employees feel their organisations have no training plan in place is worrying, as it means employers are not always best placed to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, including maintaining staff morale and improving recruitment and retention.

“Help to develop appropriate training is available through Train to Gain, whose team of skills brokers can provide free consultations and expert advice to both diagnose and meet a company’s skills needs according to its business requirements and circumstances.”

Since its launch in 2006 Train to Gain has helped more than 52,000 employers to develop training programmes. To find out more about how Train to Gain can help, employers should call 08456 047 047 or visit [traintogain.gov.uk](http://traintogain.gov.uk).

**ENDS**

**Issued on behalf of the LSC by Trimedia Ltd. For further media information please call Abi Dare or Allys Williams on 0117 929 2311 or email [abi.dare@trimediauk.com](mailto:abi.dare@trimediauk.com) / [allys.williams@trimediauk.com](mailto:allys.williams@trimediauk.com).**

**Notes to Editor:**

- 1 Research conducted by Marketing Means on behalf of the LSC. 252 employees in the West Country were interviewed between 12 and 19 February 2007.
- 2 [www.traintogain.gov.uk](http://www.traintogain.gov.uk)

**About Train to Gain:**

Managed by the Learning and Skills Council, Train to Gain is the government’s flagship service to support employers in England, of all sizes and in all sectors, to improve the skills of their employees, unlock talent and drive improved business performance. An important element of Train to Gain is the skills brokerage service which offers free impartial advice, and helps find the best training solution from high quality and responsive training providers to meet business needs.

Train to Gain is important because skills shortages continue to have a negative impact on UK productivity and competitiveness in the face of fast-growing economies. Train to Gain aims to encourage all businesses and individuals to value and realise the benefits that learning and skills can bring and to invest appropriately. It is expected that by the end of 2010, over 500,000 learners will have achieved a first full Level 2 qualification through Train to Gain.

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To find out more about how Train to Gain can help, employers should call 0800 015 55 45 or visit [traintogain.gov.uk](http://traintogain.gov.uk). Alternatively, individuals and employers can access the information they need on skills via a dedicated phone line and website. The phone number is 0800 011 30 30 or website: [lsc.gov.uk/inourhands](http://lsc.gov.uk/inourhands)

**About the LSC:**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.