



WIG

The Whitehall & Industry Group
connecting the sectors



'Society' Series

Putting individuals at the heart of
developing the National Skills Fund

16 September, 2020

Expert Insight

We were delighted to be joined by Matt Hassan, Deputy Director for the National Skills Fund and National Retraining Scheme for a webinar discussing the development of the National Skills Fund.

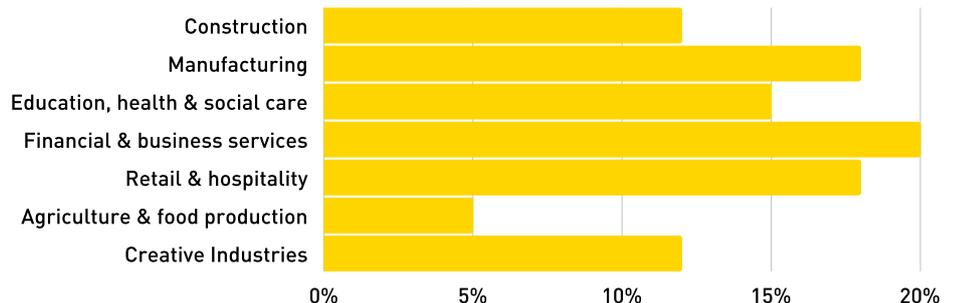
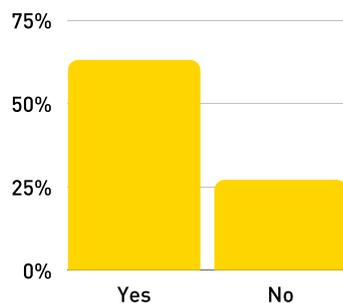


Matt touched upon points including:

- The importance of adult skills provision as a crucial contribution to the levelling-up agenda throughout the UK, to drive productivity and support economic recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Starting this Parliament, the Government is investing £2.5 billion for the National Skills Fund
- There are a number of barriers to retraining, which disproportionately impact those who will be most affected by changes in the jobs market.
- Over recent years we have seen a number of trends that highlight the need for adult retraining, such as technological change and longer working lives.
- We are taking an evidence based approach to developing the National Skills Fund and we will continue to engage with employees, employers, careers advisers, training providers, unions, think tanks and other stakeholders to build on what works.
- Our research to date has indicated that there is appetite from employers for a more flexible approach with modular learning enabling the training offer to be tailored to the role and delivered in a shorter timeframe, particularly when it comes to digital skills.

Cross-sector Opinion

Attendees from the breadth of our cross-sector membership listened in live, we asked them: in your sectors and areas have you seen any examples of innovative practice in the delivery of adult skills provision and retraining, in response to recent circumstances? We also asked what sectors could benefit from a short, flexible approach to training?



Our members' questions

Our members raised some challenging questions to be answered, some of the big issues raised included:

- Exploring models or policies from other countries which have been successfully implemented to upskill their populations, such as e.g. Singapore's Skills Credits
- How all levels of apprenticeships fit within the National Skills Fund and National Retraining Scheme
- The need to develop a learning mindset in the UK population, as longer working lives will require the workforce to engage with learning throughout their careers

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