



The Government's Jobs Plan in the digital economy – an online event

11 August 2020 – 1.00 pm

Information for Attendees

In preparation, we wanted to introduce you to our speakers and the organisations they are from as well as the discussion topics they will cover. **If you have any questions you'd like to submit for our speakers please send them to bcsmarketing@bcs.uk before 7 August 2020.**

Event background

The government's Job Plan published in July and coming into full force in August, provides a variety of opportunities for individuals and incentives for employers. The Job Plan is designed not only to help people find jobs following the COVID-19 pandemic, but ensure they are purposeful and will enable people to progress through relevant training and development.

The Jobs Plan is considered critical in re-building the economy, getting people into work and businesses back on their feet. In doing so we know that what happens over the coming months must be reflective of what has, and continues to be experienced, as a consequence of COVID-19. During this period, the transition to digital practices has been rapid and fundamental to keeping the economy moving as far as possible. As a result, the expectation is of a 'new norm' – both people and businesses are doing things differently now and will be in the future.

This BCS online event discusses

- What are the opportunities included in the jobs plan and who do they relate to?
- What impact can the Jobs Plan have in creating digital jobs and capabilities?
- What are the digital priorities of IT Leaders and has this changed since lockdown?
- What can be done to tackle youth unemployment and encourage new digital talent?
- What's the next step?

Introducing our speakers



Event Chair - [Rebecca George OBE](#)

Laura-Jane Rawlings

CEO, Youth Employment UK



Youth Employment UK

Youth Employment UK is an independent, not for profit social enterprise founded in 2012 to tackle youth unemployment. As experts on youth employment and unemployment, they are ideally placed to understand the complex landscape facing young people, employers and policy makers.

Areas Laura-Jane will cover

- Challenges, opportunities, and solutions for supporting youth employment in re-building the economy.
- What a post-COVID-19 'new working norm' means for young people and employers.
- Are the young population ready for the digital demands of the workplace?

Jonathan Mitchell Deputy Director, Standards Development, IfATE



*The **Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE)** is an employer led crown Non Departmental Public Body who oversee the development, approval and publication of apprenticeship standards and assessment plans as well as the occupational maps for T Levels and apprenticeships.*

Areas Jonathan will cover

- How employers can benefit from the range of incentives in the jobs plan.
- Experience of training delivery and assessment during COVID-19.
- How incentives relate to one another – e.g. progression from a traineeship to apprenticeships.
- Will there be competing requests to employers for work experience placements through the different jobs plan incentives and T-levels?
- How can the new essential digital skills framework support digital literacy across the workforce in support of the jobs plan?

Rebecca Denham

Traineeships Policy Lead, Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)



*The **Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)** brings together the former responsibilities of the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to create a single agency accountable for funding education and skills for children, young people and adults.*

Areas Rebecca will cover:

- Practical input to support take-up of traineeships and waiver any concerns.
- What a traineeship is – recent changes.
- Traineeship roles/responsibilities.
- Funding rules in relation to transition midway from a traineeship to apprenticeship - and impact on provider completions if this happens.
- Traineeships have been considered resource-intensive requiring significant pastoral care – how is this being considered?

Jessica Holt

Director of Consultancy & Workforce Solutions

Areas Jessica will cover:

- Thoughts and intentions on the jobs plan from an employer's perspective.

Consultancy, Tower part of
Capita Resourcing



- Advice on how to approach / get the best from the jobs plan (e.g. short-term fixes to embedding as part of employers' long-term strategy). What challenges employers may face along the way.
- Impact of digital skills – how has this changed for businesses during COVID-19, what will the new norm look like?
- What do the changes mean in relation to the Plan for Jobs and employers' skills needs for digital occupations and digital capabilities across the workforce?

Dr Bill Mitchell OBE

Director of Policy
BCS



Areas Bill will cover:

- Framing IT leaders' digital skills priorities in light of post-COVID-19 developments – have things changed?
- Post-COVID-19 digital skills demands and impact on digital and non-digital occupations and roles.
- The new norm – what will this look like in the digital economy for students, employees and employers?

Jenna Griffin

Policy Programme Manager
BCS



Areas Jenna will cover:

Summary of:

- Economical impact of Covid-19.
- Key elements of the jobs plan.
- IT Leaders.
- What's next.

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