Managers are backing the Apprenticeship programme to overturn employer underinvestment in skills development, according to a survey of 1,640 managers carried out by CMI in February 2018.

### Key Findings

- **63%** of managers support the Apprenticeship Levy to increase employer investment in professional skills.
- **2 in 5** managers are concerned about current underinvestment in their organisation when it comes to upskilling managers.
- **34%** of employers from large organisations, eligible to pay the Levy, have delayed apprenticeship starts as they adjust to the new system.
- **9 out of 10** managers support Levy spending on apprenticeships for all ages.
- **Nearly half** (47%) of all managers expressed doubt that the government will hit its 2015 target of creating three million apprentices by 2020.

The Apprenticeship Levy should be seen as a “skills investment plan”, and the funds can be used to invest in programmes for school leavers and existing employees. Businesses may not even be aware that they can use the levy to train managers and leaders at every level. We now need more collaboration to ensure that this support from managers for apprenticeships translates into a new way of training and upskilling the workforce.

Petra Wilton, Director of Strategy and External Affairs, CMI

For more information and resources visit: [www.managers.org.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.managers.org.uk/apprenticeships)

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March 2018
The picture varies from region to region

- 48% of managers expect to see a rise in the number of new apprentices in the next 12 months in the North West.
- 60% of managers in the South East are predicting a rise in the number of new apprentices, compared to just 40% in the North West.

Over half (51%) of managers say that the country will need greater investment in skills post-Brexit.

- 81% of managers say that access to the digital apprenticeships service should be extended to small businesses.
- 4 in 5 employers want more freedom to spend the Levy on small businesses in their supply chain.

The top five benefits of the new management apprenticeships, according to employers, are:

- 85% Expanding the talent pool
- 84% Creating a learning culture
- 76% Engagement and motivation
- 73% Increasing productivity
- 72% Employee retention

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