

General election 2017: Recruitment reacts



Prime Minister Theresa May's news that a general election will be held on June 8th came as a shock to many.

With Brexit already weighing heavy on the collective mind of the industry, this announcement could cause a communal migraine in the sector.

Samantha Hurley, Operations Director at the Association of Professional Staffing Companies (APSCo), labeled the news "nothing short of surprising".

She and APSCo "hope that the Government's election campaign will act as a catalyst to firm up strategies around skills and employment post-Brexit and push UK skills and the importance of the UK professional labour market into the spotlight".

Kate Shoesmith, Head of Policy at the Recruitment & Employment Confederation (REC), looked at the fiscal value of recruitment to the UK economy: "It's been a turbulent year for politics and, by extension, the markets. So far, the labour market has held up well.

"Our industry is worth £35.1 billion to the economy and recruiters transform people's lives every day. That contribution needs to be recognised and supported by whoever forms the next Government."

John Hunter, CEO of Argyll Scott, welcomes the decision. He looks forward to "an open, informative and constructive election campaign which we hope will also provide an opportunity to debate solutions to some of the ongoing shortcomings in the UK labour market - particularly in respect [to] key skill shortages and poor levels of productivity growth".

Ultimately, he hopes that the outcomes help "create a business environment that encourages investment and promotes growth in employment".

Ford Garrard, Senior Vice President - Europe & Africa at Airswift, wants "a better understanding of what will happen to EU workers residing in the UK" as a result of this election. He asked: "The main question for many businesses is will these workers stay or leave? And if they do leave, how can UK industry upskill the local population to meet its workforce needs?"

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