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## NATIONAL NEWS

### [Labour Market Statistics from Office of National Statistics – January 2020](#)

- The UK employment rate was estimated at a record high of 76.3%, 0.6 percentage points higher than a year earlier and 0.5 percentage points up on the previous quarter.
- The UK unemployment rate was estimated at 3.8%, 0.2 percentage points lower than a year earlier but largely unchanged on the previous quarter.
- The UK economic inactivity rate was estimated at a record low of 20.6%, 0.4 percentage points lower than the previous year and the previous quarter.
- There were an estimated 805,000 vacancies in the UK for October to December 2019; this is 11,000 fewer than the previous quarter and 49,000 fewer than a year earlier.

### [Rise in female employment](#)

The [BBC](#) reports on the record number of women who are in full-time employment which contributes to the new high employment rate. In the three months to November there was a rise of 126,000 women working full-time compared to the previous quarter.

## [Loungers expansion plans](#)

Loungers is expanding UK wide and planning to open 25 more sites in 2020 alone. Eventually they plan to open more than 400 Lounges and 100 Cosy Clubs across the UK.

## [New Hollywood style studios to boost creative industry](#)

Over 2,000 jobs will be created with the new Sky Studios coming to Elstree. Subject to planning consent the Hollywood style studios will open in 2022 and will generate a huge boost for the creative sector.

## [Legal Admin Staff – future predictions](#)

A study commissioned by the Law Society from the Institute for Employment Studies indicates that the number of legal secretaries and support staff is predicted to fall significantly over the next decade. Overall, the report predicts:

- A fall in employment of 13,000 (4%) on the 321,000 employed in the law in 2017
- The number of legal professionals and associates is projected to continue rising, by around 2% a year
- The number of legal secretaries will slump by two-thirds, while the numbers of other office support staff will fall by a quarter
- In 1998 one secretary, on average, was employed for every two legal professionals. By 2027 it is predicted there will be one for every 20.

## [Nomis – labour market profile](#)

A reminder that Nomis offers users the opportunity to access LMI for local areas including those by ward, local authority, LEP, regional and national. Data which can be accessed in these profiles is listed below.



## [Nursing bursaries reinstated](#)

Nursing bursaries are to be reinstated with £5,000 a year becoming available as well as an additional £3,000 for specialist disciplines such as mental health, from September 2020.

## Fintech company expansion in London

Checkout.com, a fintech specialist is expanding as it relocates to Old Street in London, taking on 300 new staff.

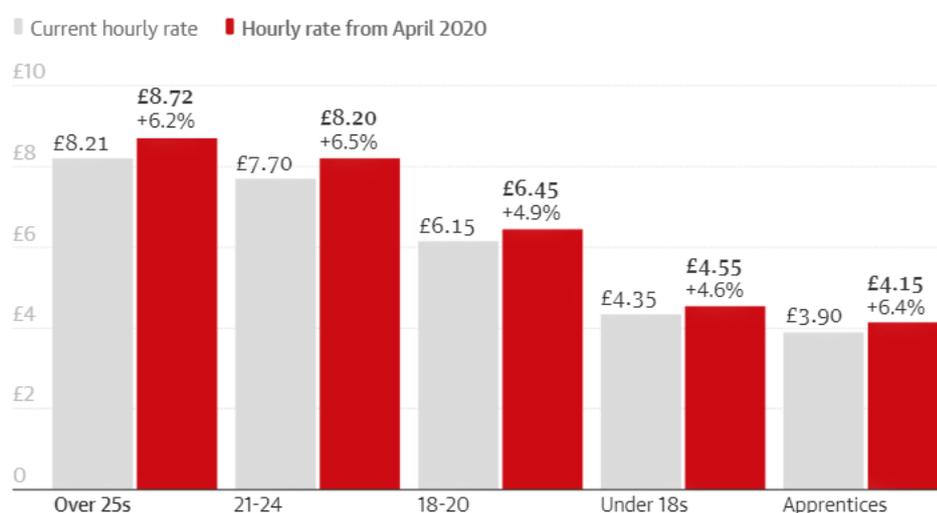
## Amazing Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship week runs from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February and Amazing Apprenticeships have published a guide for Teachers and Careers Professionals to support you. Resources include an [activity pack](#) to support the week's activities.

## National Living Wage rise from April 2020

The National Living Wage will rise from April 2020 as per the graph below: The minimum wage for those aged 25+ will be increased by 6.2% to £8.72 as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

### **The national living wage for over 25s will increase 6.2% from £8.21 to £8.72**



Guardian graphic. Source: HM Treasury

## REGIONAL NEWS

### Office of National Statistics – regional report for December 2019

- For the three months ending October 2019, the highest employment rate estimate in the UK was in the South West (80.8%)
- For the three months ending October 2019, the lowest economic inactivity rate estimate in the UK was in the South West (17.0%).
- Between June and September 2019, the largest estimated increase in workforce jobs in the UK was in the South West at 42,000, while the largest decrease was in the South East at 51,000.
- In September 2019, the region with the highest estimated proportion of

- workforce jobs in the services sector was London at 91.8%.
- The highest average estimated actual weekly hours worked, for the 12 months ending June 2019, was in London at 33.7 hours and the lowest was in the North East and South West, both at 31.3 hours.

### Location, location, location

Business Live report on the survival rate of companies by UK city with Bristol gaining top place. Brighton and Hove is one of only two other cities which show a higher survival rate than the national average (44.1%), whilst Plymouth has the lowest start-up survival rate with only one in three businesses surviving over five years. Conversely, regionally, the South West had the top survival rate at 45.6% fractionally better than the South East at 44.6%. Interestingly, London had the lowest survival rate of all UK regions at 39.3%.

### Co-op online delivery rolled out in the South

The Co-op are expanding their online delivery service and the store has chosen Bournemouth, Southampton and Brighton to roll out the service to. Previously it was only available in London and Manchester. During 2020 the store expect to roll out the service to 100 towns and cities.

### Baseline and specialised skills required in the South East and South West regions<sup>1</sup> (no link)

A comparison is provided below of both Specialised and Baseline skill requirements in online vacancies in the area in 2019 and 2018. It is clear that in both years the top skill requirements are in Customer Service and Communication Skills followed by Teamwork and Organisational Skills.

2018			
Specialised skills	No of vacancies	Baseline skills	No of vacancies
Customer Service	204,051	Communication Skills	399,472
Teamwork / Collaboration	166,749	Organisational Skills	186,990
Sales	145,160	Planning	143,439
Teaching	111,317	Detail-Orientated	136,370
Budgeting	106,045	Microsoft Excel	131,075
Project Management	86,774	Creativity	93,818
Accounting	71,806	English	89,761
Customer Contact	60,900	Problem Solving	86,228
Business Development	56,094	Microsoft Office	79,777
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	55,973	Building Effective Relationships	78,910

<sup>1</sup> Labour Insight (Burning Glass)

2019			
Specialised skills	No of vacancies	Baseline skills	No of vacancies
Customer Service	177,793	Communication Skills	355,548
Teamwork / Collaboration	157,878	Organisational Skills	169,129
Sales	117,973	Planning	128,171
Budgeting	93,368	Detail-Orientated	125,179
Teaching	87,880	Microsoft Excel	118,399
Project Management	73,756	Creativity	82,547
Accounting	60,427	Problem Solving	81,694
Customer Contact	51,720	English	81,126
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	51,084	Microsoft Office	71,676
Cleaning	45,333	Building Effective Relationships	71,296

### [50 best companies to work for 2020](#)

Business Live have published the 50 best companies to work for in the UK 2020. The 2020 list features employers hiring across a range of industries including technology, hospitality, finance, insurance and construction. Top of the ratings is Google.

### [Towns with entrepreneurial potential](#)

Brighton and Hove and Southampton are among the top places in Britain for potential to start or grow a business according to a new report. The Great British Enterprise Opportunity report also mentions Reading in its list of towns likely to achieve their full entrepreneurial potential by 2030.

### [Workforce jobs by industry – September 2019 \(no link\)<sup>2</sup>](#)

**Workforce jobs** is a quarterly measure of **jobs** in the UK and is the preferred measure of short-term **employment** change by industry. The number of **jobs** measured are the sum of employee **jobs**, self-**employment jobs**, government supported trainees and Her Majesty's Forces. Those industries with the most employment are shown here for South East and South West. Wholesale and Retail still holds the highest number employed followed by Health and Social Work. After these it changes for third position being Education in the South East (9.5%) and Accommodation and Food in South West (9.2%)

Industry	South East		South West		
	number	%	number	%	
Wholesale and retail	729,185	14.7	Wholesale and retail	435,835	14.2
Health and Social Work	602,425	12.2	Health and Social Work	404,741	13.2
Education	467,568	9.5	Accommodation and Food	281,481	9.2

<sup>2</sup> Nomis

Professional, scientific and technical	461,377	9.3	Education	254,361	8.3
Administrative and support	441,170	8.9	Professional and Scientific	247,550	8.1
Construction	345,256	7.0	Manufacturing	243,455	7.9
Accommodation and food	321,365	6.5	Construction	226,683	7.4
Manufacturing	298,891	6.0	Administrative and support	212,883	6.9
Information and communication	260,438	5.3	Public Admin and Defence	145,070	4.7
Transportation and storage	238,907	4.8	Transportation and storage	113,052	3.7
Public Admin and Defence	177,091	3.6	Arts, entertainment and recreation	99,507	3.2
Arts, entertainment and recreation	153,197	3.1	Information and Communication	92,237	3.0
Financial and insurance	122,308	2.5	Other Services	83,505	2.7
Other Services	149,264	3.0	Finance and Insurance	74,743	2.4

### [Temporary working contracts in the South West favoured by some](#)

Research carried out by Reed Recruitment finds that one in ten employees are taking temporary contracts in the South West. Of the 5,000 people surveyed, 36% thought work-life balance was the main reason they preferred this style of working and 34% felt it opened up opportunities to engage in a variety of work. Almost a quarter of those surveyed felt that they had opportunities to access new challenges through temporary work. Security and benefits are the main reasons the majority preferred to secure permanent roles and across the UK temporary contracts are favoured mostly by the 25 - 34 year old age group starting out in their careers.

Another [report](#) finds the numbers of people finding permanent jobs in the South West continuing to decline in 2019, whilst temporary appointments increased modestly.

## CORNWALL AND THE ISLES OF SCILLY

### [The thriving Tech Marine Industry](#)

Cornwall Live reports on how Cornwall is a 'world leader' for the Tech Marine Industry - one of the key sectors in the county and responsible for approximately one in seven of all UK marine jobs.

Within the region, the sector is complemented by the Marine-i programme which is a collaboration of companies which are enabling the sector to conduct research and develop many sub-sectors within the industry in collaboration with employers, colleges and universities.

### **Flambards recruitment day (no link)**

Flambards are holding their recruitment day on 26<sup>th</sup> February.



### **Haven recruitment day**



Haven are holding their recruitment days in Truro on 5<sup>th</sup> February and in Newquay on 6<sup>th</sup> February

There are quite a few recruitment fairs happening in Devon and Cornwall – see end of bulletin for others.

## **DEVON**

### **Exeter company expansion**

Exeter based manufacturer Packexe are growing and now export around the world, including their recent expansion into China. The company manufacture film for flooring.

### **Foreign photonics and electronics companies encouraged to move to Torbay**

Torbay has received funding to enable foreign photonics and electronic companies to relocate to the area. Whilst having a presence already within the UK, there is no presence at this time in Torbay.

## [New Waterfront hotel for Plymouth](#)

Construction of a new 200 room hotel on Plymouth's waterfront is due to start this year.

## [New Retail Park for Exeter](#)

Moor Exchange Retail Park in Exeter has been approved and could create up to 450 jobs for the area. So far Boots, Next, M & S Simply Food, Costa and McDonalds drive-thru restaurants, a post office, a newsagent, a gym, a restaurant, a shop and a hot foot takeaway have been confirmed for the park.

## [Plymouth Apprenticeship Jobs Fair](#)

Plymouth are holding their Apprenticeship Jobs Fair at Plymouth's Guildhall from 10.00 am – 2.00 pm on 8<sup>th</sup> February.



## **DORSET, BOURNEMOUTH AND POOLE**

### [Plans to build luxury lodges in Wardon Hill could create 80 jobs](#)

If plans are approved, Wardon Hill, near Dorchester could see 80 new jobs becoming available with plans to transform the Clay Pigeon race circuit into a holiday lodge site.

### [Cobham takeover](#)

Wimborne based Defence and Aerospace company Cobham will be taken over by a US firm.

### Two new restaurants for Bournemouth

Two new restaurants are to open within the next six months, i.e. Chicken and Blues in Bournemouth and Flamingo in Winton.

### Bournemouth Debenhams to remain open

As more Debenhams stores are axed it is good news for Bournemouth that their store will remain open.

### Rockley Park Recruitment Drive

Rockley Park, Poole are recruiting for their summer season. Here are the dates:



The poster features the Haven Rockley Park logo on the left. The main text is on a blue background and reads: 'ROCKLEY PARK Jobs Fair 2020'. Below this, the dates and times are listed: 'Thursday 6th February 5pm - 8pm', 'Friday 7th February 1pm - 4pm', and 'Saturday 8th February 9am - 12pm'. The website 'www.havencareers.co.uk' is at the bottom.

### Littlesea Holiday Park recruitment

Littlesea Holiday park are also recruiting this month for those looking for seasonal work in Weymouth.



The poster shows two people in blue polo shirts. The text on the right says 'Littlesea Holiday Park' in a large blue font. Below it, it says 'Come and visit us at our recruitment open day:' followed by a list: '• Thursday 6 February 4-8pm' and '• Saturday 8 February 10am-4pm'. Below the list is the address: 'Littlesea Holiday Park, Lynch Ln, Weymouth, DT4 9DT'. A blue circular badge says 'Recruiting now'. At the bottom, it says 'For more information visit www.havencareers.co.uk or email jobs.littlesea@bourne-leisure.co.uk'. The Haven logo and a '25 YEARS' anniversary badge are also present.

### New Care Home in Chickerell to create jobs

A new nursing home in Chickerell has been given the green light and will create 50 jobs for support workers, hospitality staff, activities co-ordinators and a manager.

## HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

### [A new hotel for Southampton](#)

Plans for another hotel on Romsey Road, Southampton look set to be approved.

### [Hampshire's Top Business Exporters](#)

BDO have named the Hampshire companies who are named as the fastest-expanding businesses overseas. These are:

- Ahmad Tea in Chandlers Ford
- Cedar Group in Romsey
- Clearvision, in Southampton
- Just Develop It in Fareham
- Siva Group in Woolston
- Symetrica Limited in North Baddesley

### [Construction firm merger](#)

Blanchard Wells and Southern Concreate have merged to become Blanchard Wells Structures and Civils. Headquartered in Soberton, this makes them one of the largest construction companies in the region with over 400 employees. The company are currently working on 20 projects in the region.

### [New care home for children could create jobs for Romsey](#)

Ten jobs could be created with a new care home for children planned for Awbridge, near Romsey. Planning permission has been sought by Childcare agency Chances Gives Choices to be approved by Test Valley Borough Council.

## SOMERSET

### [Spotlight on Taunton](#)

A very informative report entitled 'Growing our Garden Town 2018 - 2028' is available, published by Taunton Deane Borough Council. Information on achievements, strengths and future plans to ensure economic prosperity for the town over the coming years is highlighted in the report.

## SURREY

### [New plaza for Woking](#)

Jobs could be created with the opening of a new restaurant as well as other new businesses with the revamping of Duke Street in Woking into a new pedestrianised plaza for shoppers. Completion of the project is due in 2021.

### [New IKEA coming to Hammersmith in 2021](#)

A new IKEA will be opening in Hammersmith next year within commutable distance of Staines.

## WEST SUSSEX, BRIGHTON AND HOVE

### [Who is recruiting in West Sussex, Brighton and Hove<sup>1</sup>\(no link\)](#)

An insight into which employers had the most online vacancies in West Sussex and Brighton and Hove over the last 12 months. The National Health Service had the most vacancies with 5,602 vacancies.



### **[Heart of the South West \(no link\)](#)**

#### **[More welding skills required in Heart of the South West LEP area](#)**

Heart of the South West LEP are reporting that businesses in the area face a welding skills gap. The LEP are therefore considering putting on training for new entrants and to upskill others and are interested to gather views from more employers regarding their requirements.

### **[Coast to Capital \(no link\)](#)**

#### **[Crawley College STEM and digital skills centre](#)**

Crawley College is to benefit from Coast to Capital funding towards the development of their new STEM and digital skills centre which opens next year. The centre, once completed, will accommodate 1,000 new learners and 300 apprentices.

### **[Solent LEP \(no link\)](#)**

#### **[Solent LEP – some baseline information](#)**

The Solent LEP is home to almost 14 percent of the South East's total population but is currently experiencing a fall in its working population. Within the new LEP boundary there are 597,000 jobs and employment has increased within the public and hospitality sectors. Job losses are being seen in the local manufacturing and retail sectors. Southampton has experienced the fastest rates of working-age population and Eastleigh was the fastest growing in employment terms. Portsmouth has suffered considerable job losses since 2012.

Lower numbers of people in the area hold occupations in Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) groups 1–3 which are generally the highly-skilled and high value jobs such as managerial, professional and technical occupations.

The LEP are encouraging growth in these areas by enabling growth in sustainable locations, providing up-skilling opportunities and the creation of highly skilled jobs in specialist sub-sectors within the area. It is recognised that students from the three Solent universities need to be retained to work within the LEP area to drive growth in key sectors and retain higher level skills within the workforce. We look forward to Solent 2050 Strategy which will be released later this year and will show the LEP's longer term plans for growth and sustainability.

## USEFUL WEBSITES

- Golandscape – Landscaping jobs and careers – [www.golandscape.co.uk](http://www.golandscape.co.uk)
- I see the difference – Careers in the allied health professions [www.iseethedifference.co.uk](http://www.iseethedifference.co.uk)
- SSAFA – Supporting veterans into work <https://www.ssafa.org.uk/about-us/careers-at-ssafa>
- Accountancy Apprenticeships at BDO - <https://bdoearlyincareer.co.uk/apprenticeship/>

## FUTURE EVENTS - \*list not exclusive

- 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Apprenticeship Fair, Drake Circus, Plymouth – 11.00 am – 4.00 pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Apprenticeship Fair, Basingstoke College, 4.30 pm to 7.00 pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Apprenticeship Drop-in information day at South Devon College, Paignton – 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Green Light Recruitment Day, Newquay, 10 – 12 pm and 4.00 – 6.30 pm at Mor Workspace, Treloggan Lane, Newquay
- 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Bordon Apprenticeship Fair, Future Skills Centre, 4.30 pm – 7.00 pm
- Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, Horizons Centre, Torbay Discuss Apprenticeship opportunities within the NHS 9.00 am – 3.00 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> February – Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital Apprenticeship Fair, 1.00 pm – 7.00 pm at the hospital
- 4<sup>th</sup> February – Apprenticeship Fair at Chy Trevail, Bodmin, 12.00 pm – 6.00 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> February – Apprenticeship Fair, Vitality Stadium Bournemouth for Bournemouth and Poole College, 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> February – Torquay United Football Club tour and opportunity to learn all about apprenticeships – 12.00 pm – 1.30 pm.
- 5<sup>th</sup> February – Apprenticeship and Traineeship fair – Crawley College, 4.30 pm – 7.00 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> February – Torbay Apprenticeship Fair, Riviera International Centre, 9.30 am – 1.00 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> February – Apprenticeship Fair, Winchester Arqiva Court, 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

- 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 - National Apprenticeship week will be entitled 'Look beyond' will take place from - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/save-the-date-national-apprenticeship-week-2020-to-be-held-3-to-7-february-2020>



- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> February – Haven recruitment days in Truro and Newquay (see Cornwall above)
- 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February – Littlesea recruitment day in Weymouth (see Dorset above)
- 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February – Rockley Park recruitment day in Poole (see Dorset above)
- 7<sup>th</sup> February – Princess Yachts 9.00 am and 11.00 am to have a tour and learn about apprenticeships. Email [louisebarlow@southdevon.ac.uk](mailto:louisebarlow@southdevon.ac.uk) to attend.
- 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Apprenticeship Fair, Plymouth Guildhall, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm <https://www.facebook.com/events/plymouth-guildhall/apprenticeship-jobs-fair-2020/2534036000012682/>
- 12<sup>th</sup> February - Mullion Holiday Park and Sea Acres Holiday Park, Helson 12.00 to 3.00 pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Job Fair – Crawley Arora Hotel, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm <https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/network/jobseeker/event-guides/crawley>
- 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Job Fair, Portsmouth, Fratton Park, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm <https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/network/jobseeker/event-guides/portsmouth>
- 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Holywell Bay Caravan Park, Holiday Cleaners and Checkers recruitment event, 10.15 am – 2.00 pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, Hendra Holiday Park, Newquay, Recruitment Open Day, 10.00 am – 7.00 pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020, Job Fair, Bournemouth, Vitality Stadium, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm <https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/network/jobseeker/event-guides/bournemouth>
- 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Flambards recruitment day 9.15 am to 2.00 pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020, STEM CPD seminar at Bournemouth University for teachers and support staff – 9.00 am – 2.30 pm. Email Duncan Newman to reserve a place - [Duncan.newman@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Duncan.newman@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> March – National Careers Week - <https://nationalcareersweek.com/>
- 6<sup>th</sup> March – Jobs Fair, Southampton – Solent Conference Centre 10.00 am – 1.00 pm <https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/network/event?e=eDNZXf9Mh79r4YPdn>
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March, Skills South West, Plymouth Pavilions <https://10times.com/skills-south-west>
- 18<sup>th</sup> March – Job Fair, Exeter Corn Exchange 10.00 – 1.00 pm – <https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/network/jobseeker/event-guides/exeter>
- 20<sup>th</sup> March – Job Fair, Plymouth Guildhall 10.00 am – 1.00 pm <https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/network/jobseeker/event-guides/plymouth>

- 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Job Fair, Coulston Hall, Bristol, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm  
<https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/network/jobseeker/event-guides/bristol>
- 29<sup>th</sup> April – Job Fair, Reading Town Hall - times tbc  
<https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/network/jobseeker/event-guides/reading>
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Job Fair, Bournemouth Vitality Stadium, times tbc  
<https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/network/jobseeker/event-guides/bournemouth>
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Job Fair, Fratton Park Stadium, times tbc  
<https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/network/jobseeker/event-guides/portsmouth-2020>
- 27<sup>th</sup> May – Job Fair, London Stratford, times tbc  
<https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/network/jobseeker/event-guides/london-stratford>
- 12<sup>th</sup> June – Job Fair, Brighton Amex Stadium, times tbc  
<https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/network/jobseeker/event-guides/brighton-hove-2020>
- 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020, Job Fair,, Castle Hotel, Taunton, 10.00 am – 2,00 pm  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/taunton-careers-fair-tickets-65296755353>
- 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020, Job Fair, Colston Hall, Bristol, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm  
<https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/network/jobseeker/event-guides/bristol>