

# Legislation Puts Employers UNDER PRESSURE



According to a recent report, the UK's entrepreneurs are finding it increasingly difficult to cope with strict employment legislation. Many feel the balance of power is strongly in favour of the employee rather than the employer.

The report by accountancy firm Tenon indicated that more than two thirds of businesses based in the South East are feeling the pressure of strict employment legislation. And in other parts of the country, the situation is even worse – in the Midlands for example, 77% of businesses expressed concern over employment legislation. The North East, North West, Humberside, and Yorkshire also shared similar results.

The survey also uncovered another area for concern: employers are finding it very difficult to recruit quality staff. Half the businesses in the South East said they had experienced difficulty in this area, with skilled manual workers proving particularly hard to find. The agricultural, mining, and fishing industries seem to experience the most problems in recruiting staff. The survey suggests the decline in traditional apprenticeships is the most likely reason for the lack of skilled manual workers, although senior and middle managers are also notoriously hard to recruit – 18% of businesses said they had faced difficulties when trying to recruit management.

A spokesperson for Tenon added: "With half of all entrepreneurs in the South East finding it more difficult to recruit quality staff, growth can only be hindered in the SME sector of the region. The Government must be wary of developing the kind of stringent employment laws which have strangled many businesses on the Continent, and instead build a climate which enables enterprise to flourish."

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