



# Review the skills your business needs

Whatever the size of your business it is important to make sure that you have got the right skills to ensure your business can deliver its products or services to the customer. To do this, you need to look critically at what skills your business needs and decide how best to meet them.

This involves:

1. working out the skills your business needs
2. identifying what skills currently exist in your business
3. deciding how any skills gaps will be filled

## What you need to do

- review the activities of your business and identify what skills are needed to make the products or provide the service, manage your business, run your business on a day-to-day basis
- review how often each type of skill and ability is needed
- assess what skills people already involved in your business have and decide if there is any shortfall
- decide on the best way to get the skills your business needs
- work out how much it will cost your business to train existing staff or get new staff with those skills
- look at whether your business's needs for skills and abilities is likely to change in the future

## What you need to know and understand

### Business needs

- how to decide what skills are needed to run all parts of your business. (For example managing your business, marketing and sales, customer service, administration and technical support.)
- whose contribution should be reviewed. (For example management, staff, subcontractors, non-executive directors or advisers.)
- how to work out which activities should be done by other people



- how to assess the number of staff needed

## Recruitment

- the different ways you can employ people. (For example full time, part time, permanent, temporary or using professionals)
- how to assess the costs and benefits of different staffing options for your business:
  - costs (such as fees, additional wages, redundancy or incentive packages); and
  - benefits (such as added value of people, new business opportunities or increase in motivation and satisfaction)

## Developing staff

- what options there are for training staff. (For example taking time to train someone yourself, sending staff on courses or bringing a trainer into your business.)
- what the costs may be for training staff. (For example fees or covering the job while the training is going on.)

