

Lizzi Holman



Lizzi Holman is a Senior Policy Adviser in the Education and Skills Group at the Confederation of British Industry. Lizzi leads on Higher Education policy for the team, and supports the CBI's flagship initiative to bring business leaders together with universities in the Higher Education Task Force. She is also the main contact for UK universities who are members of the CBI. Prior to joining the CBI in 2007, Lizzi worked for a private research consultancy in the North East of England, undertaking a range of social and economic research projects for clients including the Learning and Skills Council, regional development agencies and sector skills councils. She took this role after completing her postgraduate work on Social Policy at the University of York.

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In your view, what is the most probable or desirable future scenario regarding labour market changes and higher education?

Looking to the future, CBI surveys show that almost three quarters of employers (71%) expect increasing demand for higher level skills. And with three-quarters of the 2020 workforce in the UK already having left compulsory education, increasing the proportion of the workforce holding graduate level skills will require inflows of young graduates and training those already in the workforce. It is therefore desirable that universities are increasingly able to provide those already in the workforce with higher level skills and the knowledge the economy needs. There is also a greater role for business to communicate the skills needed and to develop partnerships with universities to meet these needs.