

SKILLS SURVEY 2009

now is the time to invest in skills

The Skills Survey 2009 is now up and running – and will generate important benefits for all civil servants. It asks what skills people have and what skills they need. Data from the survey will be used to improve skills strategies within departments and across the Civil Service as a whole, leading to more valuable development opportunities for staff, at a time when raising people's skills is of the utmost importance.

In particular, the Skills Survey will give independent confirmation that we are delivering on the Skills Pledge. All permanent secretaries in Whitehall departments made the Pledge, which commits departments to enabling every staff member to become qualified to Level 2 (equivalent to five GCSEs at grades A* to C or an NVQ at Level 2). For less-qualified staff, achieving this level of qualification can open the doors to new career opportunities.

High response rates are crucial to the success of the survey, so please spread the word in your teams and encourage staff to take part. This will give your department robust evidence to help develop its own skills strategy and improve services to the public.

Participating government departments, the Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland Civil Service, are all running the survey at different times. All organisations will complete the survey by the end of June 2009 – so watch out for publicity over the next few months to find out how to participate.

Government Skills, the sector skills council for central government, is delivering the Skills Survey. For information on the Skills Survey in your department, contact your HR team or lucy.leonhardt@government-skills.gsi.gov.uk



“ As the biggest survey ever run across central government, it will give us the data we need to assess and improve our strategy on skills and make sure the right development opportunities are on offer ... It's essential we get as many responses as possible from a broad range of people – who are from different departments, professions and grades, and who have different skills levels.

Sir Gus O'Donnell, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service

PCS believes the more people that complete the survey, the more meaningful and helpful the results will be. We have received assurances that individuals' responses will be anonymous and we believe that the survey will bring benefits. Accurate data can help us to negotiate better provision of learning and training.

Hugh Lanning, Deputy General Secretary, PCS

The FDA is working in partnership with government to ensure every civil servant gets the opportunity to develop their full career potential and enhance their skills. So I would urge you to spend a few minutes, in what I know will be a very busy day, to complete the Skills Survey 2009.

Jonathan Baume, General Secretary, FDA

We encourage all members to complete the Skills Survey 2009 and highlight the value of specialist skills.

Dai Hudd, Deputy General Secretary, Prospect ”