



Department for
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To all FTSE 250 leaders,

As we recover from the pandemic, it is vital we work together to build back better and support UK businesses across the board.

As Business Secretary, I am working with colleagues across government and in the business world to create the right environment for businesses to grow and thrive. I want to ensure UK businesses have the support and skills they need, not only to bounce back from the pandemic, but to also drive the innovation, growth and job creation we need as we move towards a more secure and prosperous future.

As leaders of the largest UK listed companies, I am writing to all FTSE 250 CEOs to urge you to join me in encouraging the UK's small and medium-sized businesses to explore the support available from the Government. Many of these businesses you will work with as key parts of your supply chains, and their success underpins the success of the whole economy.

Last year, the Chancellor announced two Help to Grow programmes to boost productivity and drive growth among the UK's small and medium-sized businesses.

Today, the Government has opened the **Help to Grow: Digital** scheme, supporting small and medium sized businesses to grow, create jobs and level up the way they do things through adopting digital technologies.

Through the scheme, eligible businesses can take advantage of discounts of up to 50% and worth up to £5,000 when buying approved software from leading technology suppliers. This will help them to build customer relationships and manage their finances more effectively.

Businesses will also be able to access free and impartial support on how to choose the right digital technologies to boost their performance and growth through a new, dedicated online platform operated by the government.

Help to Grow: Management which launched in May 2021 has been developed in close partnership with the business community and is being delivered by leading business schools across the UK, giving small business owners access to world-class leadership and management training. Help to Grow: Management is enabling businesses to make the most of their potential, giving them the skills they need to future proof their business, increase productivity and take their business to the next level.

The courses are delivered through flexible learning, combining the best of face-to-face and online classes. The courses offer businesses peer-to-peer networking sessions and in-person real life case study workshops. Participants

will also receive one-to-one mentoring sessions with leading business mentors, and opportunities to connect with senior leaders like you and join an alumni community after the 12-weeks to continue their learning and networking.

Throughout the course, participants will be guided by some of the UK's top business experts and will develop a growth plan that sets out the steps needed to take their business to the next level. The Government is supporting the courses financially, which are designed to be easily managed alongside day-to-day work.

Please take the time to talk to businesses you work with about Help to Grow and encourage them to visit www.gov.uk/helptogrow, where they can find out more. It is in all our interests to back SMEs and boost the UK's economic productivity.

Your support is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kwasi Kwarteng', written in a cursive style.

RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy