



DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Quotes from Business Compact signatories

Microsoft

Managing Director, Gordon Frazer:

“Youth unemployment and a lack of social mobility are two of the major issues facing our society in 2012.

“Britain’s young people have been some of the hardest hit in these difficult times and we want to do our part, working closely with the Government to raise aspirations and give them the opportunity to build their careers regardless of their background.

“Microsoft’s Britain Works is about providing a fair chance for all through access to skills, training, and opportunities. Through this and as part of our commitment to Business Compact, we are continuing to make the IT industry an attractive and accessible place for people to work, and we’re providing real opportunities for young people via IT Apprenticeships, work experience and through our work with partners, charities and NGOs to reach those who need help the most.”

KPMG

Head of People, Michelle Quest:

“KPMG aims to support informed career choices through varied and high-quality internships that are open to all students to apply for.

“This underlines our support for the Deputy Prime Minister’s social mobility compact to widen access to business and the professions.

“By using the time to develop new skills and deepen their appreciation of commercial issues, students will be able to use this experience to enhance their skill set and employability.”

J.P. Morgan

CEO of Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Daniel Pinto:

“Engaging in initiatives such as the Social Mobility Business Compact is critical.

“Social mobility creates more opportunities, enhances living standards and increases diversity in the workforce, all of which only increase the UK’s competitiveness on the global stage.”

Cancer Research UK

Executive Director of Human Resources, Elizabeth Sideris:

“Cancer Research UK is proud to be a signatory to the Government’s Social Mobility Business Compact.

“The future of the charity’s lifesaving work depends on securing the best bright young talent to drive forward developments in cancer research, diagnosis and

treatments so we strive to inspire young people towards a career in science through our work in schools, communities and careers fairs across the UK.

“We will continue to work to open doors for all who want to participate to help the charity continue its world class research and help us realise our vision to beat cancer.”

Nestlé UK & Ireland

Chairman & Chief Executive, Paul Grimwood:

“At Nestlé we believe that recruiting the best people for our business is the key to our continued success.

“To ensure we can do this in the future we must invest in initiatives which provide people with the opportunity to reach their full potential regardless of their circumstances.

“Through the Nestlé Academy we will contribute towards the delivery of the Social Mobility Business Compact, providing flexible entry points to attract people at different life stages and providing varied career development routes through our organisation.

“We will double our number of apprentices and graduates, while offering a range of internships to undergraduate students. NVQs and degree level qualifications will be open to school leavers, graduates and current employees, providing a different route to higher education for those who may not otherwise feel that the opportunity for academic studies is open to them.”

Tesco

UK & Ireland CEO, Richard Brasher:

"Tesco employs over 70,000 young people under 25 and we fully support the Compact's goal of achieving even more fair and open opportunities for all young people."

Morrisons

Chief Executive, Dalton Philips:

“We think this is a great idea. Business has an obligation to ensure Britain has the right skills.

“That’s why we work so hard to give our colleagues the skills they need. Our apprenticeships programme fuels their careers, allowing them to move up the ladder.

“It’s also why 95% of our store managers began their careers in hourly paid positions – progressing all the way from shopfloor to topfloor.”

ACCA

Executive-Director Brand, Neil Stevenson:

“ACCA was founded in 1904 on principles of open access, opportunity, integrity and diversity and these clear values still stand today in the 21st century.

“ACCA exists to enable people of ability and ambition, regardless of their social or educational background, to seek a rewarding career in accountancy, finance and management. We are proud to be signatories to this social compact.”

Tata Global Beverages

Deputy CEO, Percy Siganporia:

“It is a pleasure for Tata Global Beverages to sign up to the Social Mobility Business Compact, but, more importantly, it is quite simply the right thing to do.

“We feel very strongly about social mobility and are passionate about fair opportunities for everyone.

“We are committed to building a business and culture that demonstrate equality, honesty, and respect, in order to create a better future for people and the planet.”

Mears Group

CEO, David Miles:

“Mears has a long standing commitment to strengthening the communities where we work. Businesses have a phenomenal capacity to help break the cycles of disadvantage faced by some of the poorest members of our society.

“This is why Mears is supporting the Social Mobility Business Compact and are encouraging others to see what they can do to create a more productive and socially mobile society.”

Quote from Business Compact supporter

Career Academies UK

Chief Executive, James McCreary:

“We are delighted that the Deputy Prime Minister has launched this initiative as part of the Government’s social mobility strategy. Career Academies UK seeks to raise the aspirations and improve the employability skills of 16 to 19-year-olds, predominately in areas of social need.

“Our programme’s success relies on the support of employers to provide paid internships, mentors and classroom based speakers. I am pleased to say that many of our 1000 supporters have signed the business compact, but I strongly urge more employers to commit to this, in order to ensure we continue to develop talent and provide opportunities for all.”