# CYBER SECURITY SKILLS GAPS AND SHORTAGES IN THE UK CYBER SECTOR IN 2020





#### **SKILLS GAPS**

Skills gaps exist when the individuals working in or applying for cyber roles lack particular skills.



have **existing employees** in cyber roles who lack necessary technical skills

**59%** 

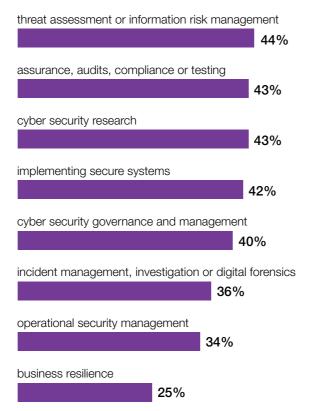
have had job applicants lacking necessary technical skills



**28%** 

have existing employees in cyber roles who lack communication, leadership or management skills

have had job applicants lacking communication, leadership or management skills These 32% and 59% of cyber sector businesses have technical skills gaps in the following areas:\*



\*These areas have longer definitions in the survey, based on the descriptions from the IISP Skills Framework.

### RECRUITMENT



have had vacancies in cyber roles within the last three years

Among these 68%, the most common recruitment approaches are:

word-of-mouth or industry networks

specialist cyber recruitment agencies

generalist recruitment agencies

social networks

generalist recruitment websites

# **DIVERSITY IN THE CYBER SECTOR**

Across those working in cyber roles in the cyber sector:



15%

are female



16%

are from ethnic minority backgrounds



have neurodiverse conditions or learning disorders\*

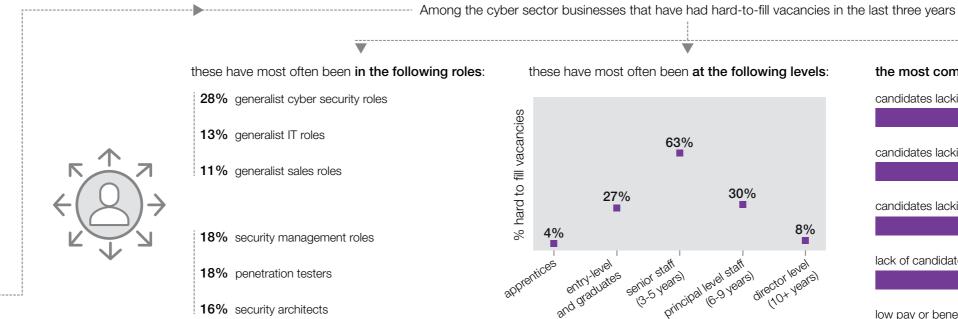
\*Neurodiverse conditions or learning disorders were defined in our survey as including conditions such as autism, Asperger syndrome, dyslexia, dyspraxia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

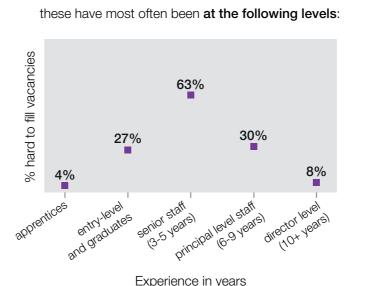
## **SKILLS SHORTAGES**

Skills shortages exist when there is a shortfall in the number of skilled individuals working in or applying for cyber roles.



of all vacancies for cyber roles in the last three years have been considered "hard-to-fill"





the most common reasons for these are felt to be: candidates lacking technical skills or knowledge candidates lacking soft skillset 22% candidates lacking right attitudes 16% lack of candidates generally 16% low pay or benefits offered

13%

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ABOUT THIS INFOGRAPHIC

The findings in this infographic come mainly from the Understanding the Cyber Security Skills Labour Market 2020 study. This is a mixed-method study that Ipsos MORI has carried out on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The study includes a representative telephone survey of 205 UK businesses in the cyber sector, carried out from 7 August to 4 October 2019.

The rest of the study involves:

- a separate quantitative survey of UK businesses, charities and public sector bodies
- quantitative analysis of cyber security job vacancies
- qualitative research with large businesses, cyber sector firms and cyber security training providers

A <u>full findings</u> report and technical report have been published on the GOV.UK website. The 2020 study is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cyber-security-skills-in-the-uk-labour-market-2020

The survey data for the "Skills gaps" section comes from a separate, comparable survey of cyber sector firms that Ipsos MORI carried out for DCMS earlier in the same year, as part of the Cyber Sectoral Analysis 2020. This was also a representative survey of 262 UK businesses in the cyber sector, carried out from 1 May to 25 June 2019. These businesses could have taken part in both surveys.