**An investigation into how UK Businesses are preparing for a recession and the needs of the future workforce**

**Key highlights:**

* More than half of UK business leaders (51%) are either unsure or do not believe the policies proposed by Prime Minister Liz Truss will help the UK avoid a recession.
* If the UK does enter a recession, businesses will slow their investment in Technology solutions!
  + 1 in 10 UK business leaders said they would cut their Technology budgets by more than 50%
  + Over a quarter of UK business leaders (27%) said they would have to cut their Technology budgets by 20-40% if the UK entered a recession
* Is entering a recession an advantage?
  + 54% of UK business leaders said preparing to acquire other businesses would be a key priority
* Is UK unemployment set to shoot up?
  + Almost a third of UK business leaders (30%) said they would seek voluntary redundancies in their workforce if the UK entered a recession.
* Get back to the office still a high priority for UK businesses
  + Well over a third of UK business leaders (39%) said that even if there is a UK recession, employees should still be made to work at the office
* UK Business could be left footing the bill of workers who are made to work in the office
  + Over a third of UK business leaders (35%) said that if there is a UK recession then employers should contribute towards the commuting costs if employees are made to work at the office.
* Are UK business not prepared for the workforce of the future
  + 1 in 10 of UK businesses leaders (10%) said they would decrease the salary of permanent home workers
  + Less than a fifth of UK business leaders (17%) said they would offer new working patterns in the future - e.g. Hybrid or Asynchronous ways of working
* This is despite almost three quarters of UK business leaders (73%) saying that if there is a UK recession, employers should allow employees to work flexible hours that suit their lifestyle as long as it doesn’t impact productivity!
* Is sustainability still just a tick box exercise?
  + Just over a quarter of UK business leaders (26%) said they would introduce sustainable energy use/ monitoring to become carbon neutral
* There are some Smart thinkers in UK businesses
  + When asked what their business would consider to improve how employees work in the future, the top three answers from UK business leaders were:
    - Invest in Digital Workplace technology to improve collaboration, hybrid working - 64%
    - Sub-let unused office space as a result of more employees working remotely - 48%
    - Introduce Smart Lockers or Smart Vending Machines for IT Asset Management/ Delivery - 39%
* UK Business leaders left to tackle the rising cost of living
  + 31% of UK business leaders said they would look to increase employee salaries to tackle rising cost of living to help improve how employees work in the future

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