



National News

Graduate loan repayment threshold

With effect from 6th April, the income at which graduates need to start repaying their student loan, has been increased from £21,000 to incomes over £25,000. Typical monthly repayments are now:

- £25,000 per year repays £0 per month instead of £30
- £27,000 per year repays £15 per month instead of £45
- £30,000 per year repays £37 per month instead of £67
- £33,000 per year repays £60 per month instead of £90
- £35,000 per year repays £75 per month instead of £105
- £40,000 per year repays £112 per month instead of £142

Growing A1 intelligence in the UK

The UK's artificial intelligence is growing rapidly and a report has been published outlining recommendations to take A1 forward including the recognition that skilled experts will be needed to develop A1, currently in short supply.

Other recommendations include that Industry sponsorship of Masters level courses in AI, with an initial cohort of 300 students, universities exploring the potential demand for one-year conversion Masters degrees in AI for graduates in subjects other than computing and data science and Government and universities creating, at least 200 PhD additional places dedicated to AI at leading universities. It is also recommended that a UK A1 Council should be established

Zero-hours contracts

Zero-hours contracts increased dramatically in 2017 to 1.8 million to November. The Taylor Review, commissioned by the government last year recommended an increase in the minimum wage for zero-contract workers - the publicity around this may account for the increase, i.e. people realising that such contracts exist. Around 900,000 workers are currently working on zero-contract hours, including one in twelve young people, the appeal being the flexibility which comes with it.

More mothers are not giving up work to have children

The Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) have found that the number of mothers not giving up work after childbirth rose to 78% in 2017 compared with 50% in 1975 for the 25 -54 age group. They found that the trend is increasing where women are more likely to stay in work as the graph below indicates

British Rail Apprenticeships

Network Rail's Advanced Apprenticeship scheme is open with 150 apprenticeship opportunities available. The scheme is open to anyone who will be aged 18 and over before 29th September. There is no upper age limit. Candidates will need four GCSEs at grade A - C including English, maths and a science or engineering subject and be available to start on 29th September.



BHASVIC

Local News

Crawley amongst top 6 places for high earnings

A report published by the BBC looks at where the highest salaries are earned across towns in the UK. In South East Crawley comes out as one of the highest earning places along with Reading

A new way to gain a qualification

Pearson Learning have joined forces with the University of Sussex to enable 1,000 online distance learners to achieve postgraduate qualifications. The first course, an MSc in International Marketing is now accepting applications for a September start. Other courses are planned

The Fair City

Brighton wants to be known as 'The Fair City' in an aim to ensure that employees are paid a fair wage. 400 employers have now signed up to the campaign within Brighton and Hove.

Centre for Cities data – Brighton and Hove

Cities Outlook 2018 for Brighton and Hove is available to download. A summary of some of the facts and figures are:

Business & innovation

Business start-up rates – Brighton and Hove rank 8th (69.3 business start-ups per 10,000 population)

Skills and Education

The city ranks 8th among cities with the highest percentage of high qualifications, with 46.5% of working age population with NVQ4 and above. The UK average is 38.0%.

Brighton & Hove have 3.8% of residents with no formal qualifications

In addition, the City has a below average proportion of 50 – 64-year olds with no formal qualifications (7.8% compared with the UK average of 11.8%).

Wages

In 2017, the average weekly workplace wage in Brighton & Hove is significantly lower than national average at £496 (ranked 37th).

Jobs

Employment in 2017 was 181,200 or 75.4%

Electrical business expansion

Brighton based Kew Electrical are expanding and hope to open two new branches a year across the UK.

Thank you for the positive feedback received about these bulletins. Have a great summer!
Mandy Brindle