**Apprenticeships are too expensive**

The National Minimum Wage for Apprentices is set annually by the government, which is a minimum requirement. However, it is up to you as the employer if you wish to pay the apprentice more

Smaller (non-levy) employers receive funding from the government, but will need to cover the apprentice wage and other costs themselves.

If the apprentice is over 19, or if you have over 50 employees, employers are required to contribute 5% towards the cost of the apprenticeship, the government will then pay the remaining 95%

Levy employers are businesses with an annual pay bill in excess of £3 million, and are required to pay a compulsory tax, calculated at 0.5% of the pay bill- they can use this to pay for their own apprentices, or they can transfer it to smaller employers too

**Apprentices don’t add value to a business**

There are a lot of benefits from employing an apprentice from spreading the workload to help boost productivity. They may also have a positive impact on staff morale and more diversity to the team.

Full-time employees can also enrol onto an apprenticeship to further their knowledge which will add lots of value to the business as they often fill a gap in the business needs.

**The government decides what is covered in an apprenticeship!**

In 2014, the government decided that apprenticeships should be developed by a number of employers called ‘trailblazers’ who worked together to create the apprenticeships based on what they feel is required for an apprentice to know, which were developed into Apprenticeship Standards - these standards are continually being developed by the ‘trailblazers’

This means that when the apprentice achieves their apprenticeship, they’ll be ready for employment based on the set of skills, knowledge & behaviours they have learnt from their apprenticeship

**Apprenticeship Myths**