

## Expanding in Exeter

Berry Recruitment in Exeter has expanded into bigger offices as the economy in the West Country continues to improve with more jobs being created. The recruitment experts are now based on the Pynes Hill Business Park with potential to add to the team of specialists. Included within the more attractive premises are areas for candidate training and additional interviewing facilities.

The latest figures from the Office for National Statistics show that the West Country has the highest employment rate of any region in the country – at 77 per cent – as well as the lowest inactivity rate. Unemployment stands at just 4.6 per cent in the South West and the benefit claimant count is down, year on year.

The latest REC Jobs outlook survey showed an astonishing 99 per cent of hirers plan to hold or increase agency worker levels in the medium term. It also showed that 79 per cent of hirers are using agency workers to gain short-term access to key strategic skills.

Marika Stephenson, who manages the Exeter branch of Berry Recruitment, said these figures tallied with the number of jobs created in the region over the last year. The branch is a specialist in recruiting in the commercial sector, filling a variety of positions including those in sales and finance. It also recruits across the industrial sector and is developing its base in the 'contact centre' sector, working to supply staff for customer service centres and similar enterprises.

Marika said: "There are lots of jobs in the region we cover that includes the whole of Devon and into Somerset. We're seeing an increasing number of vacancies in Newton Abbot and Tiverton particularly.



*Chris Chown, Managing Director*

"The new offices reflect our growth and the ambition we have to recruit internally as the economy continues to improve and jobs keep being created. We are seeing companies relocating to the region and also new ones starting up as confidence returns.

In the commercial sector we have dedicated experts in the sales, finance, administration and contact centre areas. Within our industrial arm we recruit a wide range of staff including warehouse and manufacturing operatives as well as drivers. The potential in this region is huge and anyone looking for work – or who needs staff – is welcome to pop in and see us."

Chris Chown, MD of the Berry Recruitment Group, said: "We have 30 branches across the country and are on track to achieve turnover in excess of £56m this year. Our Exeter branch is a huge success story and they are looking for consultants and candidates."

[www.berryrecruitment.co.uk](http://www.berryrecruitment.co.uk)

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