

HALF OF UK WORKERS UNINSPIRED BY THE OFFICE: NEW RESEARCH REVEALS WHAT STAFF EXPECT AND ITS IMPACT ON PRODUCTIVITY

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HALF OF UK WORKERS UNINSPIRED BY THE OFFICE: NEW RESEARCH REVEALS WHAT STAFF EXPECT AND ITS IMPACT ON PRODUCTIVITY

- More than half of UK workers find the office to be 'uninspiring'
- Hybrid workers revealed to be the least happy versus full-time office and remote workers
- Employees want their office to deliver 'an experience', rather than a space to carry out tasks

UK workers are finding British offices and places of work to be lacking, as the latest research has branded them as uninspiring and uninviting, with many blaming the pandemic for the shift in work attitudes.

A new report by interior design and fit-out business Claremont has revealed how businesses can make workplaces relevant and compelling by tuning into how employees feel about an office.

Claremont surveyed more than 1,000 office workers across a range of sectors to identify the impact of an office on a workforce's behaviour and how staff need to feel in order to be happy, healthy and productive.

Dubbed 'The Workplace Oooh', the research revealed that almost half of employees – 52% of hybrid workers and 48% of full-time office-based workers – feel uninspired by their workplace, while 42% say their office doesn't make them feel valued.

It also revealed that the vast majority of today's employees (84%) expect the office to deliver an experience, rather than it just being a place to complete tasks.

Sarah Syson, Head of Design at Claremont said: "In recent years, the very essence of how, when and where we work has changed and the office has taken on a new role. It's no longer the everyday place for work and so it must work much harder to make itself relevant and inviting. Now, the office needs to give employees the feelings and experiences that lone working leaves us wanting – those rich in face-to-face contact, collaboration and socialisation."

The research also revealed the six key emotions that today's employees seek from their workplace – they want to feel inspired, valued, connected, supported, included and proud.

Camaraderie and a feeling of connection with colleagues is key – over a third (35%) of all employees and 42% of hybrid employees said they want to visit the office to feel human connection and teamwork is what makes people feel the most productive and positive about being in the office.

Cost of living has also had an impact on attitudes to places of work, with 28% of people sharing that a major reason they would visit the office is to be in a heated space. For the youngest workers, this rose to 31% of Generation Z.

Equally, workers revealed red flags that can put them off attending the office including poor kitchen facilities, poor & outdated office etiquette, lack of quiet spaces, no wellbeing spaces, concerns about cleanliness, no access to the outdoors and even bad coffee.

The data also revealed that:

- Nearly a third of employees want a fun creative environment (30%), closely followed by using brilliant technology (29%)
- Seeing friends and working as part of a team is also essential for modern workers, with almost a third saying it makes them feel positive about work (32%) and the same saying it makes them feel productive (31%)
- Collaboration is also highly valued but mostly by the Baby Boomer generation with 40% saying they want face-to-face collaboration opportunities.
- Almost a quarter (24%) of this audience also wanted better technology in the workplace to help them collaborate with colleagues

Generational differences are highlighted too, with stark attitude shifts from Baby Boomers through to Generation X, Millennials and Generation Z. The youngest group of workers,

Generation Z, are the proudest of their workspaces at 84%, but they do have high expectations of it with a fifth (20%) expecting it to be environmentally conscious

Inclusion mattered to all workers, covering a range of needs including flexible working. Flexible working was highlighted as an important factor for female employees (45% compared with 37% of men) and was prevalent most for Millennials and Generation X.

Sarah continued: “The research really highlights that a workplace needs to suit employees’ evolving demands – which means catering for their emotional needs and helping them to feel happy, healthy and more productive – as well as meeting their more practical task-based needs with systems and technology.

“With factors including flexible working, cost of living and eco-conscious workspaces being highlighted as important to workers, it’s more important now than ever before for a workplace to meet workers’ needs at every level.

“The research also highlighted that far too many workplaces aren’t up to the job and they definitely don’t have ‘The Workplace Oooh’, which could well lead to high staff turnover or recruitment struggles down the line.”

<https://www.claremontgi.com/the-workplace-oooh/>

Claremont is one of the UK's leading office interior design, fit-out, furniture and technology companies and delivers workplaces that motivate and inspire. Delivering projects across the UK from its offices in Warrington and Bristol, Claremont offers a full range of commercial and office interior solutions

including workplace analysis and consultancy, office space planning and interior design, fit-out, refurbishment, office relocation, furniture supply and installation as well as the integration of audio visual, multimedia and wireless technologies.

For more information, visit: www.claremontgi.com

Claremont commissioned a report, conducted by Censuswide Consultants, of 1006 office workers aged 18+ across a range of sectors between 20th January 2023 and 25th January 2023. Censuswide abide by and employ members of the Market Research Society which is based on the ESOMAR principles and are members of The British Polling Council.

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