Training can also boost soft skills such as communication, time management and customer satisfaction.

More and more small businesses are beginning to realise that lifelong learning and training is not just something that is nice to have, it is an absolute imperative for success.

Since its launch in 2002, learndirect scotland – backed by the Scottish Executive – has been a resounding success, with more than 10,000 businesses calling the national training advice line for free and impartial advice and support. A recent independent external audit of the service found 94% of small companies who have enlisted the help of learndirect scotland for business would recommend the service to other SMEs.

Business Services Manager of learndirect scotland for business, Derrick Ross, was challenged by an employer recently with the comment: "What if I train my staff and they leave?", to which he replied: "What if you don't train them and they stay?"

learndirect scotland for business National business training advice line: 08456 000111 www.lds4b.com





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