July 7, 2020

New research shows that half of British workers do not want to go back to pre-Covid working environments.

As workplaces reopen, a quarter of Britons say their employer hasn't explored any flexible working options to help them return to work.

The nationally representative survey from Theta Financial Reporting suggests neither the government nor large businesses have done enough to consult the workforce on how safe they feel to return to work and whether the traditional environment works for them in a post-Covid world.

Key stats include:

> • Two-thirds of working Britons – 65% – do not feel comfortable commuting to work via public transport any more and think it will be one of the most stressful parts of their day.
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> • 57% of people do not want to go back to the normal way of working in an office environment with normal office hours.
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> • 17% of UK workers say their business will no longer be in a permanent office when they return to full-time work.
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> • 24% of Britons say their employer hasn't explored any flexible working options to help them or their colleagues return to work.
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> • More than a third – 35% – say going back to work in a traditional office environment will have a negative impact on their mental health, which in turn will negatively affect their productivity.
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> • More than a quarter of British workers – 26% – say their company's finance teams will not be returning to the office with other employees in July and will now work at home for the majority of the time.
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> • More than a third of UK workers – 35% – say their company will return to the office with a smaller team and with people handling more varied responsibilities.