

F | Your Career

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Just waiting for the call

An emigration company has received hundreds of inquiries from Britain, writes GERARD CAMPBELL.

Thousands of skilled British workers are keen to help with the rebuilding of Christchurch, says the director of a company that helps Britons emigrate to New Zealand.

Geoff Taylor, a director of The Emigration Group and Skilled British Workers, said in the last month alone, his company had received 1474 online inquiries from skilled Britons keen to move to New Zealand, with many willing to relocate to Christchurch to help with the rebuild. Taylor will be in Christchurch early next week keen to talk to employers interested in taking on British migrants.

Taylor said that the new web portal (skilledbritishworkers.co.uk) has CVs for many thousands of Britons and the site helped New Zealand employers tap into a rich resource of committed British migrants.

"We have helped many thousands of Britons in the past 20 years come to



Geoff Taylor

New Zealand and have about 14 full-time staff in Britain working for us.

"We assess their eligibility, which visas they need to apply for and contact New Zealand employers to help find the principal applicant a job.

"In most cases, there is no fee to the employer, as the candidate pays our fee.

"The other side is business led: a company in New Zealand needs qualified staff, but can't find enough workers in New Zealand, so is forced to look overseas. This is where we come in. Employers contact us in New Zealand and we work with them to source high-calibre Britons who want to move to New Zealand.

"Again, the employer is not compelled to pay a recruitment fee."

There are thousands of committed Britons who want to move to New Zealand, but they are waiting for a job. That is the catalyst for them to move here. If the job is there, they're committed," Taylor said.

Skilled labour existed right across



Much work to be done: Many skilled Britons are keen to move to Christchurch to help with the city's rebuilding. Photo: DAVID HALLETT/FAIRFAX NZ

the job spectrum: from teachers, nurses, ICT professionals and software testers to aircraft engineers, electricians and plasterers, he said. "And there has been an increase in inquiries from skilled tradespeople within the construction industry in Britain - plasterers, electricians, roofers - wanting to help with the rebuild of Christchurch."

It is estimated that between 20,000 and 30,000 workers will be needed over

a five-year period to help rebuild Christchurch as a result of the September 4 and February 22 quakes, and the need for skilled workers for Christchurch has even made an appearance in Britain's *Professional Builder News*, a trade publication.

Taylor said the earthquake rebuild would require a lot of skilled workers and New Zealand appealed to Britons because of its lifestyle.

Taylor moved here from Britain

eight years ago. "I can sum it up in one word: lifestyle. For me coming to New Zealand was purely for the [warmer] climate. It's also the space - there are only four million people in a land mass slightly larger than Britain - and the outdoor lifestyle."

Taylor will be in Christchurch next week talking to the Christchurch Chamber of Commerce. To contact him, email geoff@emigrationgroup.co.nz

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