

Social Implications of ICT teleworking – is it suitable for everyone ? (01:52)

Teleworking was supposed to revolutionize the way we work but it seems that some employers don't trust their staff to work from home and some teleworkers miss the gossip and their colleagues so much they'd rather be at the office.

Here is our business correspondent, Rory Kathleen Jones.

Every morning, Carol Mac makes the coffee and then sets off for work. It's a short journey up the stairs.

She's among the Surrey County Council staff who are now allowed to work from home.

« I can get up in the morning and come straight into my office. I don't have to sit in the traffic for hours. I can fit my work life around my home life. I'm trusted by my employers to do this. There are lots of benefits for me. »

But a new report from the TUC says Carol is in a small minority. Teleworking is the revolution that hasn't happened.

At the Council headquarters, Claire Holloway has decided teleworking isn't for her.

There are too many things she'd miss about the office.

« I think you miss the office banter... the sort of... the chat with people, getting to know a huge number of different people whom you probably wouldn't come across anyway. I just... It's good fun to work here. »

And while this employer sees benefits in allowing staff to work from home, others appear unwilling to let them out of their sight.

« Employers want to make sure that they're getting value for money out of employees. And the old traditional measure was having a jacket on the back of the chair. That has got to change. And people's way of managing their staff has got to be far more sophisticated and a lot more trust involved. »

Technology now makes it possible for millions of us to work from home rather than in an office if we want to. But it seems many employers and their staff have yet to be convinced that this is a revolution worth joining.

R.K Jones, BBC News