

August 2, 2007 – **July release for findings from June surveys – BB109 + BAB 58**

Press Release for UKBB and UKBAB reflecting results from June surveys

Businesses need more help on recycling, survey finds

The government is not doing enough to advise businesses on environmental issues, according to a monthly internet survey run by The University of Nottingham Institute for Enterprise and Innovation (UNIEI).

A high proportion of respondents to the UK Business Barometer survey felt the government has not given enough help on the practicalities of waste recycling. When asked to what extent they thought sufficient support and advice had been offered on this, 69 per cent responded with 'not at all' or 'very little'.

The will to take action certainly appears to be present in the small and medium-sized business sector, the survey suggests. In the wake of publication of Government's 'Waste Strategy for England 2007', many of those running small and medium-sized businesses appear to be keen to reduce the amount of commercial and industrial waste they send to landfill.

In the latest survey, 46 per cent of respondents said they had the capacity to further reduce their waste. Even more – 49 per cent – acknowledged that they had the capacity to do more recycling in a bid to reduce the environmental impact of their business.

One way of reducing and recycling waste is to give away surplus stock, and this option also got the thumbs-up from a large majority of businesspeople. A charity founded by the Prince of Wales, In Kind Direct, has been making this possible for ten years. Of the survey respondents who found this question applicable, 81 per cent said they would actively participate in such a scheme – assuming there were no extra costs incurred.

The latest survey also asked about another piece of legislation, currently out for consultation, dealing with breaches of trading standards and environmental health regulations. The government is proposing a system of on-the-spot fines for breaches in these areas, but businesspeople remain to be convinced that this is the best way forward.

Only 18 per cent thought on-the-spot fines would be highly or reasonably successful in deterring rule-breakers, while 55 per cent – three times as many – thought the fines would be totally or almost totally unsuccessful.

The parallel UK Business Adviser Barometer (UKBAB) survey, run in association with the Institute of Business Consulting, asked this month about sources of business information. The results confirmed the importance of the internet in 21st-century business: it was the number one choice of business information for 43 per cent of business advisers, compared to 33 per cent who chose it in 2002. In the latest survey, the internet was singled out more often than any other source, including journals, colleagues, professional bodies or the media.

The UKBB and UKBAB are run by The University of Nottingham and operate over the web to generate very rapid results. The surveys have unique software that enables results to be processed and posted on their respective websites immediately they arrive.

The survey results are published monthly and more information, including a press pack, can be found on the web at www.ukbb.ac and www.ukbab.ac. Businesses and advisers wishing to contribute as panellists on the project should visit the appropriate Business Barometer website to register.

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Notes to editors: The University of Nottingham is Britain's University of the Year (The Times Higher Awards 2006). It undertakes world-changing research, provides innovative teaching and a student experience of the highest quality. Ranked by Newsweek in the world's Top 75 universities, its academics have won two Nobel Prizes since 2003. The University is an international institution with campuses in the United Kingdom, Malaysia and China.

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