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To: Rachel Nowell

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Greetings!

Welcome to the latest Policy Update from the South Wales Chamber. Don't forget to complete the QES next week and if you would like to comment on any of the items included contact policy@southwaleschamber.co.uk.

Details are also included below on a workshop focusing on Construction and the Construction Act 2008.

→ Quarterly Economic Survey

A call for all members to complete the Quarterly Economic Survey

The SWCC quarterly economic survey is one of the largest business surveys of its kind in Wales. The QES is used by the South Wales Chamber of Commerce and the British Chambers of Commerce to



ensure local business needs are addressed to key influencers. In South Wales, the QES is recognised by the Welsh Assembly Government, local MP's/AM's, Local Authorities, Higher Education and research establishments as a reliable economic indicator.

The survey's influence was more apparent than ever at the start of 2010, it formed the basis of the SWCC National Recovery Plan which has been acknowledged by the Welsh Assembly Government and was also referenced in the minutes of January's Monetary Policy Committee meeting at the National Assembly.

Our response rate for Q4 2009 was 27.85% this placed us 3rd of the 49 Chambers that contributed. The South Wales Chamber is constantly looking for ways to increase response rates and would welcome all new and existing members to subscribe to the QES survey swcc.qes@thethirdstage.com

The QES survey for Q1 2010 will be available from February 22nd.

→ National Recovery Plan

The South Wales Chamber of Commerce National Recovery Plan was officially launched at the State of the Nation event in January.

[Download the NRP](#)



→ Finance

0% Business Loans from the Carbon Trust

In the current economic climate every business needs to stay one step ahead. A 0% loan from the Carbon Trust could help you do just that. You can borrow between £3,000 and £500,000* (flexible to your business needs), interest free and unsecured. Applying is straightforward and with no arrangement fees, capital can even be accessed without denting cashflow.



[More details](#)

→ Environment

10:10 Initiative

The South Wales Chamber is urging all members to sign up to the 10:10 Initiative. The aim of the initiative is to reduce emissions by 10% in one year.



Using less energy will increase profits; you'll save money as your bills shrink and future laws force businesses to catch up with what you've already achieved.

[Download Introduction](#)
[Download Methodology](#)
[Download Business Case](#)

[Sign-up here!](#)

→ Regulation

Employment Tax and Regulation

The British Chambers of Commerce has revealed an upcoming £25.6 billion cost to business of new employment tax and regulation.

Despite continuing economic uncertainty the regulatory environment for business is set to become even more challenging in the next four years.

Using the Governments own figures, taken from Impact Assessments, the BCC has calculated the net burden that business face from new employment regulations from 2010 - 2014. Over half (£14bn) of the 25.6bn comes from employer National Insurance contributions, which will see a 1% increase from April next year.

[Download timeline of the upcoming employment burdens](#)

→ Breakfast Workshop

The Construction Act 2008 - "Confusion or clarity?"

Join John Collins & Partners LLP Solicitors for another light legal workshop to help you understand legislation that can impact on your business.

February 24th 2010: The New Construction Act and what you need to know. Taken by Partner and expert in this area of the law Christian Edwards.

- Existing regime
- Why change?
- Benefits
- Confusion?
- The future?

Time:

7.45am to 9am

Date: Wednesday 24th February 2010

Location: the office of JCP (see www.jcpsolicitors.co.uk for map and directions)

Refreshments: A light breakfast buffet will be provided

Cost: Free

[Booking form](#)

 **General**

Chairperson for the British Heart Foundation

After a decade in the role the current chairman of the Cardiff Branch of the British Heart Foundation (BHF) has decided that it is time to step aside and pass the reigns on to somebody new. Therefore the branch is appealing to people to get in touch if they are interested in playing a role to support such a worthwhile charity in the city.

Heart disease touches us all and is Wales' biggest killer. The Cardiff Branch is a lively group of people who meet on a regular basis to plan social activities to raise funds for the BHF's work, fighting heart disease on all fronts. The role of the chairman is to oversee and co-ordinate these activities, with the support of the local BHF volunteer manager.

If you are interested please contact Glenda Meakin Tel: 029 2089 0148.

To book places at the events or for any further information, please use the links provided or email info@southwaleschamber.co.uk.

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