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**To:** Rachel Nowell

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#### Greetings!

Welcome to the latest Policy Update from the South Wales Chamber. Please take some time to look through the latest documents available to download here.

If you have any queries please contact Natalie Taylor on 01633 242722 or email: [policy@southwaleschamber.co.uk](mailto:policy@southwaleschamber.co.uk).

#### → Next events...

23rd March, 1.30pm for 2pm - 4pm at the BT Data Centre, Cardiff  
**Business Growth Club: IT & Communications delivered by BT**  
This workshop will help you to drive new business, identify efficiencies and control your costs, through the effective use of IT & Communications.

[Book your place](#)

30th March, 1.30pm for 2pm - 4pm at the Holiday Inn, Newport  
**Business Growth Club: How Technology Can Save Your Business Money delivered by Dell**

This is a unique opportunity for you to gain insight into how technology and implementation of this technology can help your business grow, even in these challenging times, as well as saving you money.

[Book your place](#)

21st April, 7.30am for 8.00am - 9.30am at the Hilton Cardiff  
**Business Breakfast with Stephen Hester, Chief Executive, RBS**  
Limited places available, [book yours today!](#)



#### → Quarterly Economic Survey

Response submissions for Quarter 1 of the Quarterly Economic Survey expires today.

If you have missed the opportunity to complete the quarter 1 survey but would like to receive a survey for quarter 2, please email:

[swcc.qes@thethirdstage.com](mailto:swcc.qes@thethirdstage.com).



The information you provide enables us to gauge local business confidence and serve you in the most productive way. It is

particularly important in the current economic climate that the issues and concerns of businesses are accurately represented so they can inform the development of regional and national economic policy.

## → Environment

### Taking action on Climate Change

The [Prince's Mayday Network](#) is the UK's largest movement of businesses committed to taking action on climate change. Named after the international 'Mayday Mayday' distress signal, it was founded by HRH The Prince of Wales, as a call to action to business, at the first Mayday Summit in 2007.



The Mayday Network aims to inspire, engage, support and challenge by helping businesses along the steps of the Mayday Journey towards a low carbon economy, and by celebrating their achievements. Businesses in the Network are encouraged to take action in their own businesses, and collaborate with each other and with key partners to address climate change and create a low carbon economy. The Mayday Network is currently over 1,700- businesses strong.

Membership of the Mayday Network is free and it takes one minute to join up at [www.maydaynetwork.com](http://www.maydaynetwork.com). There are many benefits to business including becoming more competitive, saving money, keeping up to date with policy and regulation, strengthen brand reputation.

## → Business Rates

### New legislation on business rates

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government Minister introduced new legislation to ensure that owners of properties that are predominately unoccupied or used as a second home will no longer benefit from a tax loophole whereby they can pay less tax on their property by paying business rates instead of council tax.



The new legislation requires that in order for a building to be liable to pay business rates instead of council tax, properties must be let for at least 70 days during the previous 12 month period.

The eligibility of properties that are used for commercial letting for at least 70 days of the year is unaffected.

[Summary of WAG Small Business Rate Relief Scheme 2010](#)

## → Planning

### Public Consultation on the Planning Application Process

GVA Grimley Consultants are inviting members of the public and organisations to take part in a four week consultation on changes to the Planning Application Process. GVA Grimley Consultants has published a draft report on its web site. Further information is

available here: [Study to examine the planning application process in Wales.](#)

## Information from BCC

The BCC has published [Exporting Britain - Trade Finance](#) arguing that British businesses are placed at a disadvantage with their competitors by the lack of support for export trade finance in the UK.

The BCC has published a report on [Employment Law: Up to The Job?](#) That explains the common problems businesses face, and sets out practical measures for reform, not only within the law, but also within the tribunal system.

To book places at the events or for any further information, please use the links provided or email [info@southwaleschamber.co.uk](mailto:info@southwaleschamber.co.uk).

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