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For immediate release

South Wales Chamber reaction to Tory plans to freeze public sector pay and rise the state pension age of males up to 66

Reacting to the Tory's plans to freeze public sector pay within one year of being elected and plans to bring forward the retirement age of males to 66 by ten years, David Russ, Managing Director of the South Wales Chamber of Commerce (SWC), said:

"Anything to reduce the public sector burden on the private sector is welcomed. For a long time the private sector has been the income generators and the public sector have been the spenders – it is time to balance the books.

"What we need now is to move businesses forward faster than what they have been doing in the past 12 months, particularly concentrating on international connections and operations which will really drive our recovery and generate some money, particularly in Wales.

"With regards to bringing forward the rise of the state pension age of males to 66 forward 10 years, is a clear example of recognising the debt we have and how it can be tackled.

"People are now living longer and increasing the age is a positive aspect, it would increasingly positive if the plans also included rising the age for women to 66. Not only would this be a balancing act in the equality stakes but surely it would see our debt reduced even further."

Ends

For further information please contact the SWC PR Officer on 01633 242715 or 07890 271211.

Notes to editors

Full copy of the speech:

<http://m.guardian.co.uk/?id=102202&story=http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2009/sep/29/gordon-brown-labour-conference-speech-in-full>

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