John Thurso MP

for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross

Northern Business Survey

Giving businesses a voice...

Your name: .....
Position: .....
Business name: .....
Address: .....
Postcode: ..... Tel: .....
E-mail: .....

Please be assured that all responses will be kept confidential and no company or employee names will be used when discussing these survey findings with officials.

YOUR COMPANY PERFORMANCE:

1. What type of products or services does your company provide?

.....

2. Over the previous 12 months, has your turnover;

- Expanded ☐
- Stayed the same ☐
- Contracted ☐

3. Thinking about the prospects for your business over the next 12 months, how concerned are you about the future of your business?

- Very concerned ☐ Concerned ☐
- Unsure ☐ Not concerned ☐

YOUR COMPANY FINANCE:

4. Is your company currently experiencing any cash-flow or any other financing difficulties?

Yes ☐ No ☐

5. Do you envisage running into cash-flow or any other financing difficulties in the coming year?

Yes ☐ No ☐

6. Have there been adverse changes in your banking arrangements during the tough economic climate?

Yes ☐ No ☐

LATE PAYMENT OF DEBT:

7. What trend in debtor payments are you experiencing versus those previously agreed?

.....

8. Have you ever made use of the 2.5% interest charge that can be applied on such late payments?

Yes ☐ No ☐

REGULATIONS:

9. Do you have difficulties implementing new regulations?

Yes ☐ No ☐

10. If yes, please explain...

.....

11. Which regulations do you believe should be reformed or cut?

.....

12. How many visits have you had in the last 12 months from regulators and inspectors?

- Less than 5 ☐ 5-10 ☐
- 11-15 ☐ 15+ ☐

13. Do you believe there were too many visits?

- Yes ☐
- No ☐

Survey continues over...

Please return your completed survey to John Thurso MP in the FREEPOST envelope provided at no cost to you.

Whilst John Thurso MP will treat as confidential any personal information which you pass on, he will normally allow staff and authorised volunteers to see it if this is needed to help and advise you. The MP may pass all or some of the information agencies such as the DSS, Inland Revenue or the local Council if this is necessary to help with your case. John Thurso MP may wish to write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues which you may find of interest. Please let him know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose. This survey has been paid for by funds made available to every MP to assist them in informing and representing their constituents. Printed by . Published and promoted by the office of John Thurso MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

ADVICE AND SUPPORT:

14. Have you previously requested any business advice or support?

Yes ☐ No ☐

15. If you have requested business advice and support, what was your experience and how could it be improved?

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE:

16. Have you experienced any problems following the cuts at HIE?

Yes ☐ No ☐

RECRUITMENT:

17. Do you have any difficulties recruiting staff with the right qualifications, skills and experience?

Yes ☐ No ☐

18. If yes, please explain.

19. Does your company provide any training programmes for employees?

Yes ☐ No ☐

20. In the last 12 months have you had contact with JobCentrePlus?

Yes ☐ No ☐

21. If you have had contact with JobCentrePlus in the last 12 months, has this had a positive impact on your business?

Yes ☐ No ☐

No impact ☐

TRANSPORT:

22. Does the local transport network have any adverse impact on the performance of your business?

Yes ☐ No ☐

23. If the local transport network does have an adverse impact, please explain;

24. Does your business have to pay a higher, Highlands and Islands delivery charge?

Yes ☐ No ☐

THE LOCAL AREA:

25. Does the street your business is on have a problem with any of the following?

Litter/rubbish ☐ Graffiti ☐

Broken lights ☐ Potholes ☐

Poor pavements ☐ Crime ☐

Other

PLEASE USE THIS SPACE TO DETAIL OTHER CONCERNS:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. I look forward to seeing the results. In the meantime, if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to make contact.