

Battling red tape

Over half of smaller business owners (55%) say their company's growth is being held back by the amount of time they have to dedicate to business administration, according to research from the Federation of Small Businesses.

The findings show that a small business owner

spends over 33 hours every month on internal business administration - representing almost a quarter of an individual's working hours. In addition, the average small business sees around 70 hours of employee time tied up in business admin alone.

Three for two offer

ExaClair the UK distributor of French papermaking group Exacompta Clairefontaine, has launched a three for two offer on brands including Iderama, Campus and Europa. The promotion will run until the end of September 2016.



Targeting the back to school market, the promotion includes a wide range of products including Europa A4 and A5 notemakers, filing and organisation products, Iderama filing and Campus Neon filing and organisation products.

This year's promotion will build on the accomplishments of five previous promotions, which saw sales increase year-on-year, including an increase of five per cent in 2014, and four per cent in 2015.

Workplace furniture collection



KI's EC4 collection of workplace furniture combines solid oak and steel, adding a touch of nature to the modern office landscape. Designed and manufactured in the UK, the workstation system can be configured to suit open plan areas, meeting rooms and third spaces alike.

Solid oak legs, complemented by a variety of coordinating accents and finishes such as oak laminate edge detail on worktops, act as reminders of the natural world and augment wider biophilic design - a concept that aims to bring nature into man-made spaces. This has been shown to reduce stress and improve wellbeing.

A raw deal

A recent report from the British Chambers of Commerce and British Gas showed that 27% of business owners who rent a space feel they have no influence over energy-efficiency improvements in their building.

Energy price comparison experts, Love Energy Savings is urging business owners who rent their premises to take greater control over their finances. Managing Director Phil Foster believes that many renters could be paying over the odds for their gas and electricity because it isn't crystal clear in the terms of their tenancy as to who supplies their energy. The company has put together a guide specifically for commercial renters.

Queen's Award

H.K.Wentworth Group, which includes Electrolube and AF International has been awarded a Queen's Award for Enterprise. The company was among around 250 winners who were announced officially by Her Majesty The Queen during her birthday celebrations.

60 successful years

ACCO Brands is celebrating the 60th anniversary of its iconic Rexel 56 Range of stapling products. The original range comprised six compact staplers and the range's namesake - No. 56 staples. Although each model was intended to serve a different stapling function, it revolutionised the market as all used the same staple size - a simple concept that satisfied 98% of office stapling needs.

Flexible working is top perk

Flexible working is the most favoured perk among employees in the UK, 35% of participants in a survey conducted by facilities and building maintenance specialists Direct 365 listed it as their top one.

In June 2014, all employees in the UK were given the right to request flexible working from their employer after 26 weeks of employment,

as the government attempted to encourage a more favourable work-life balance nationwide. However, according to Direct 365, further research showed that flexible working may not necessarily be the saving grace everyone was hoping for, with one in three people expressing concern that traditional office culture could be lost if more of their colleagues work remotely.