

FSB NORTH EAST PRESS RELEASE: Energy companies must pass on bill reductions to small businesses says FSB

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Energy companies must pass on the recently announced bill reductions to small and micro businesses, says the Federation of Small Businesses in the North East.

Research from the FSB North East How's Business survey showed that eight in 10 (80%) small firms are worried about the rising cost of energy.

The survey also found that small businesses are concerned that they have limited knowledge of the energy options open to their business and very few understand energy contracts.

Given that small and micro businesses typically behave like domestic customers in the energy market we would like to see the Government:

- Push for greater transparency of the big six providers
- Push for simpler pricing structures
- Ensure that small and micro businesses receive the same protections that domestic customers have with energy contracts

Ted Salmon, FSB North East Regional Chairman, said:

"In our most recent survey of members the biggest barrier for their business was increased energy and fuel costs.

"We want the energy companies to pass on the recently announced bill reductions to small and micro businesses. Given that small and micro businesses typically behave like domestic customers in the energy market they should be treated in an equal fashion.

"Alongside this the Government should be doing more to help small and micro businesses by ensuring there is greater transparency of the big six providers and introducing a more transparent pricing structure.

"Small and micro businesses will help lead the recovery and re-balancing of the economy in the North East and by pushing through these changes will help more to survive, grow and prosper."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. The FSB is the North East's leading small business organisation with more than 4,000 members. It exists to protect and promote the interests of the self-employed, and all those who run their own business. More information is available at www.fsb.org.uk

Contact:

Simon Hanson, FSB North East Development Manager

Federation of Small Businesses

01207 506 138/ 07917 628 937

www.fsb.org.uk/northeast