



*For immediate release
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To: Employment, Retail, Political

REMINDER: BRC NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE SURVEY

On 25 October, the British Retail Consortium (BRC) will be publishing results from its survey on the impact national minimum wage increases have on the retail sector.

The press release will be issued on Friday 22 October AM, under strict embargo until Monday 25 October 00.01hrs.

The survey follows the Governments decision in March to raise the adult national minimum wage to £4.85, despite evidence presented to the Low Pay Commission suggesting this would be unwise given the economic circumstances.

The survey results will show the projected impact of the recent rise and possible future increases on the sector, including:

- Wage differentials**
- Staff levels and turnover**
- Redundancies**
- Benefits packages**

The last survey, published in 2002, showed small and medium sized retailers were hit hard by rises. Results also indicated that the whole industry would suffer if rates were to rise substantially again.

Ends

Notes:

The 2004 survey has drawn responses from an estimated 46% of the total retail market in terms of turnover and 36% of all retail employees. Results of the survey will be submitted as evidence to the Low Pay Commission on 25 October.

The BRC represents a whole range of retailers, including the large multiples, department stores and independent shops, selling a wide selection of products through centre of town, out of town, rural and virtual stores.

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