

BIS lead on the policy critical to growing the economy, and one of the key priorities of the Department is to improve the regulatory framework, whilst minimising burdens.

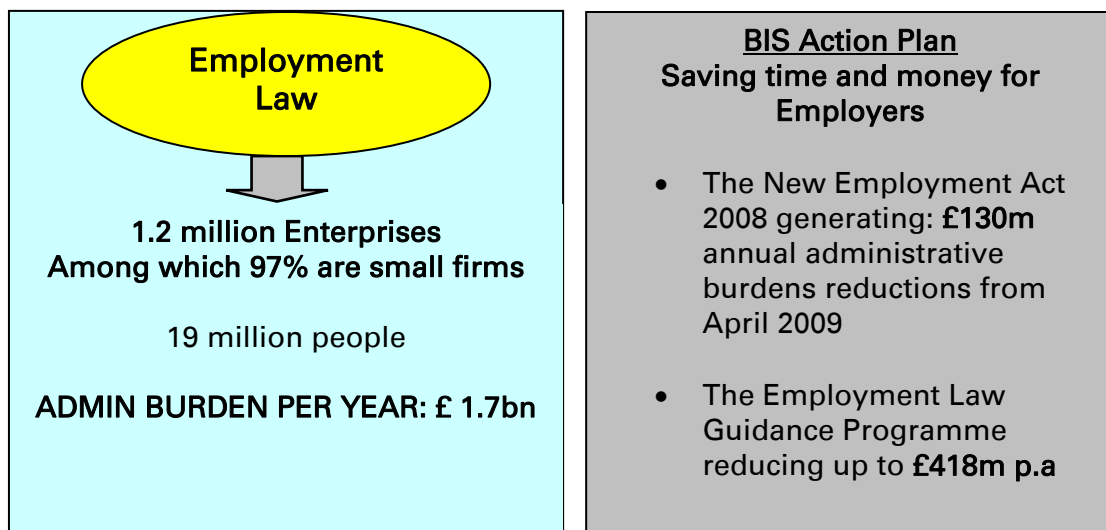
As part of a cross-Whitehall programme to reduce by 25% the administrative burdens associated with regulation, BIS is taking simplification measures designed to make a real difference to private, third and the public sectors as set out in our annual Simplification Plan 2009.

Reviews in employment law, consumer law, company law, insolvency law and weights and measures legislation have accounted for a large proportion of more than **£1 billion of savings annually for the British economy.**

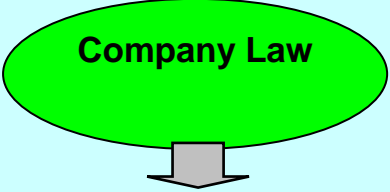
BIS administrative burdens baseline	£4,489m
Administrative burdens reductions identified	£1,435m
New administrative burdens	£298m
Net administrative burdens reduction	£1,137m

Given the current economic environment we have particularly tried to ensure that small businesses have not been adversely or disproportionately affected by the implementation of regulation.

We have also made progress on the public sector side on Train to Gain, Apprenticeships and the implementation of the Qualifications and Credit Framework, with specific savings made through the development of Managing Information Across Partners services. The recent Skills for Growth – The National Skills Strategy sets out an ambitious plan to provide skills needed to drive economic growth.



Company Law



2.5 million Companies
The vast majority of which are small

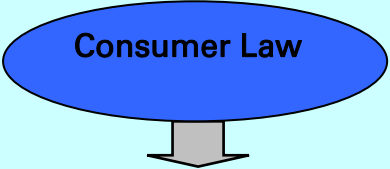
ADMIN BURDEN PER YEAR: £1.1bn

BIS Action Plan

**Better corporate governance:
saving time and money for
companies.**

- The Companies Act 2006 delivering **£388m** of administrative burdens reductions p.a

Consumer Law



**Unfair Commercial Practices
Directive
Implementation 2008**

325,000 firms in the retail sectors
153,000 hotel and restaurant
enterprises
+ Real estate, services sectors

ADMIN BURDEN PER YEAR: £ 812m

BIS Action Plan

**Simpler consumer law for traders
and intermediaries**

- UK implementation of the EU Unfair Commercial Practices Directive introducing a general duty to trade fairly lead to **£178m net** in administrative reductions p.a

BIS is also contributing to the EU simplification programme by working with the European Commission and other Member States.

BIS has comprehensive **stakeholder engagement** and communication plans ensuring that all stakeholders are engaged throughout policy development and are kept informed on progress. The Employment Law Guidance Programme team has engaged a Public Relations team to disseminate and inform the businesses of the measures they can benefit from. The following case study is one of many showing that **real businesses are gaining real benefits.**

John Charles established Catering2Order in 2007 and now employs 15 staff, and manages the company's HR responsibilities himself.

"I subscribe to the Business Link newsletter service and look at the website whenever the need occurs. The tools on the site are very useful and simple to use. When I need specific advice I will turn to the professionals but do a lot of the groundwork myself, and using the site isn't time consuming or complicated."