



NEWS RELEASE

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WEEKEND OF CAMPAIGNING MPS ON TAX

Nationwide lobbying on National Insurance Contributions (NICs) over weekend of 4th June

North Hampshire Enterprise, the Chamber of Commerce for North Hampshire, is gearing up for its first lobbying initiative of the new Parliament which will be taking place over the weekend of the 4th June. This is part of a national campaign across the Chamber Network, coordinated by the British Chambers of Commerce.

North Hampshire Enterprise has written to the North Hampshire MPs informing them of its concerns surrounding the Government's proposed changes to employer and employee rates of National Insurance. The Chamber has also emailed its Members urging them to lobby their local MP and sign a NICs petition.

The coalition plans to increase employer NIC by one per cent in April 2011. This is a partial reduction of the rise that was put in place under the previous Government, achieved by changing the thresholds at which employers pay NICs. In addition, the coalition is planning to raise capital gains taxes on non-business assets.

To sign the NICs petition, visit www.no-nics-rise.co.uk.

Commenting on the campaign, Gill Edinburgh, Deputy Chief Executive of North Hampshire Enterprise, said:



“The goal of this nationwide initiative is to bring a top business priority to MPs’ attention and ensure that this issue is at the forefront of debate during the early days of the new Parliament.

“The coalition’s steps to roll back the rise in employer National Insurance will help but the increase needs to be cancelled in full to support business growth and job creation.

“The coalition is planning to raise capital gains tax on non-business assets. Even if there are ‘significant reliefs’ for entrepreneurs, this policy could hurt ordinary employees participating in company share schemes, hit small investors and dampen the spirit of enterprise in the UK.

The emergency Budget takes place on the 22 June – North Hampshire Enterprise will watch with interest the Chancellor’s decisions on tax.

Ends

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Notes to Editors

1. North Hampshire Enterprise is the chamber of commerce for **the Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor, Winchester and Test Valley areas**. Accredited by the British Chambers of Commerce it exists to help Hampshire businesses prosper and develop by providing expert business help and advice. As a membership organization it is owned by and accountable to the local business community. Visit www.northhampshireenterprise.co.uk