

Press Release

For immediate release
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Red Tape Day; welcome but more fundamental action needed, say bosses

Business leaders today welcomed the common commencement date for new employment laws, but warned that it should not be seen as a substitute for more fundamental action.

The Institute of Directors (IoD) said that a single start date for new regulations makes it easier for business to keep up to speed with new rules, but Ministers still need to cut the overall volume of regulatory burdens on business.

The legislation taking effect from 1st October includes:

- New dispute resolution regulations.
- New employment tribunal rules.
- Amendments to the Disability Discrimination Act, requiring
- adjustments to business premises to accommodate disabled people.
- Changes to the Minimum Wage, including an increase for adults and
- the introduction of a new school leavers rate.

James Walsh, Head of Regulatory Affairs at the IoD, said:

"The common commencement date approach is welcome and should be extended beyond employment measures, but more action is needed to get to the root of the red tape problem.

"We still need to tackle the pro-regulation mindset that pervades Whitehall and Brussels."

Following a similar exercise in April, the latest Red Tape Day should help to concentrate the minds of policy-makers by making the cumulative total of each year's new regulations plain to see, the IoD said. Additionally the IoD said it was also strongly in favour of extending the 'common commencement date' approach to EU measures.

James Walsh said:

"With around half of new business regulations originating in Brussels, the new common commencement date approach will fail unless it is extended to EU measures as well. There is plenty of talk about "Better Regulation" at EU level. Following British best practice on common commencement dates would be a practical step forwards.'