



PRESS RELEASE

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LIGHTENING THE LOAD – BUT NO TOOLS TO DO IT WITH

The RSA warmly welcomes the publication of a report from the Better Regulation Executive entitled "Lightening the Load", on the regulatory impact on the UK's smallest businesses, including independent shops. The RSA arranged for the BRE to meet a number of our members as part of their research and the findings do very much reflect the experience of the vast majority of rural shopkeepers.

Ken Parsons, Chief Executive of the RSA, said, "This Report correctly identifies the frustrations felt by small businesses over the sheer amount of regulation and its complexity, highlighting the number of hours a small businessman needs to master the detail and the costs involved. It provides an excellent analysis of the dead hand that regulations exert over micro businesses, in many cases discouraging them from employing staff and expanding. However, it is very frustrating that there are no clear recommendations on what government departments need to do to remedy this problem. This Report is too important to be shelved and we will be working in the coming months to encourage Government to take on board the lessons outlined in it."

Notes for editors:

The Rural Shops Alliance (RSA) was formed in April 2001 and now represents over 7,200 independent retail members, employing some 40,700 staff. The RSA – a trade association with a difference – exists to be the campaigning voice of the independent rural retailer and the source for practical support particularly in terms of retail best practice. Many 'blue chip' and 'retail service' suppliers sponsor and partner the work of the RSA and help the organisation with category management and best retail.

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