

Dear Small Business Finance Forum Member

RE: SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS TO HELP COMPANIES SUCCEED

Last October the government introduced Solutions for Business, its streamlined portfolio of publicly-funded business support products and services. Rollout of the products is now complete.

Providing help for businesses is a priority, now and in the future. Through Solutions for business the government's business support in England is in one place, sharing a common look and feel and accessible mainly via Business Link.

Solutions for Business products can assist companies with starting, growing, accessing finance, skills and training, research and development and resource efficiency, including low carbon. We have also included Real Help products in our Solutions for Business materials.

Business Link is the main conduit to Solutions for Business products, advising and brokering companies to the right help. At 942,000, the number of businesses using its service is at an all time high and its customer satisfaction at 90% remains good. Next month, the brokerage service for Train to Gain integrates with Business Link, offering advice on skills and reinforcing Business Link's role as the main route to government support.

A framework for simpler publicly-funded support is a government promise delivered. It is what businesses asked for and is an important step on the road to recovery as the government's long term, sustainable, support offer to business.

I have attached a leaflet outlining Solutions for Business products and you can find out more at www.businesslink.co.uk/solutions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Pearson', with a large, stylized initial 'I'.

IAN PEARSON
Economic and Business Minister