

ERC State of Small Business Britain Conference 2024

How can we better support small businesses?

Conference Programme

09.15-09.45: Registration and coffee

INTRODUCTION

09.45: Chair's introduction and welcome: Jane Galsworthy, Oxford Innovation Advice

09.50-10.10: Opening presentation: *Business support conundrums – what's the target?*,
Stephen Roper and Mark Hart, Enterprise Research Centre

SESSION 1: Enabling small business productivity

10.10-10.40: Research presentation: *Productivity heroes – moving on from the Vital 6%*,
Karen Bonner, Ulster University

10.40-11.15: Panel discussion: *Business support and productivity – what works?*
Andrew Henley, University of Cardiff; James Phipps, Innovation Growth Lab;
Eva Kolker, Behavioural Insights Team; Kevin Mole, Enterprise Research Centre.
Chair: Mark Hart, Enterprise Research Centre

11.15 - 11.30: Coffee break

11.30-12.00: Research presentation: *Exporting and small business productivity*,
Jun Du, Aston University

12.00-12.20: In conversation: *Supporting small business exporting – what works?*
Alan Lowry, CEO Environmental Street Furniture Ltd, and FSB Northern Ireland
in conversation with Stephen Roper, Enterprise Research Centre

12.20 - 13.15: Lunch and networking

SESSION 2: Strengthening small business support systems

13.15-13.45: Policy case study: *The challenges faced by SMEs in Austria and policy response*,
Karin Bachinger, Austrian Institute for SME Research

13.45-14.20: Panel discussion: *Using evidence to inform better business support at local level – What works?*
Victoria Sutherland, What Works Centre for Local Growth; Robert Wapshott, University of Nottingham;
Cathy Keenan, Belfast City Council
Chair: Eugenie Golubova, Enterprise Research Centre

14.20-14.35: Refreshment break

14.35-15.00: Business case study: *Gripsure UK's growth and finance journey*,
Mike Nicholson, Managing Director, Gripsure UK Ltd.

15.05-15.35: Panel discussion: *Strengthening financial resilience in small businesses - what works?*
Liz Barclay, Small Business Commissioner ;Miriam Koreen, OECD;
Richard Bearman, British Business Bank
Chair: Maria Wishart, Enterprise Research Centre

15.35-15.45 Closing remarks – Jane Galsworthy and Stephen Roper

15.45: Conference close - networking and drinks reception to 16.30