



ERC State of Small Business Britain Conference 2024

How can we better support small businesses?

Conference Programme

09.00-09.45: Registration and coffee

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

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: Research presentation: Entrepreneurial ecosystems,
Erik Stam, Utrecht University

13.45-14.15: Policy case study: The challenges faced by SMEs in Austria and policy response,
Karin Bachinger, Austrian Institute for SME Research

14.15-14.30: Refreshment break

14.30-15.05: 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

15.05-15.25: Business case study: Gripsure UK's growth and finance journey,
Mike Nicholson, Managing Director, Gripsure UK Ltd.

15.25-15.55: 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

15.55: Closing remarks – Jane Galsworthy and Stephen Roper

16.00: Conference close - networking and drinks reception to 16.45