

Dear Sir Alastair,

### 3.2.2. *Small firms*

Small firms are defined as those with fewer than 50 employees. The number of small firms in the UK has increased from 1.5 million in 1982 to 2.2 million in 1997. The number of employees in small firms has increased from 10.5 million in 1982 to 12.5 million in 1997. The number of small firms in the UK has increased from 1.5 million in 1982 to 2.2 million in 1997. The number of employees in small firms has increased from 10.5 million in 1982 to 12.5 million in 1997. The number of small firms in the UK has increased from 1.5 million in 1982 to 2.2 million in 1997. The number of employees in small firms has increased from 10.5 million in 1982 to 12.5 million in 1997.

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