

NEWS RELEASE

SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN BUSINESSES WHICH PROVIDE ETHICAL TRAINING

“Climate change now as important an issue as health and safety” says new report from the Institute of Business Ethics

London, March 6, 2008: There has been a major increase in the number of British companies training their staff in business ethics, according to a report published today by the Institute of Business Ethics.

The IBE surveys UK companies every three years on the use of their codes of ethics. The 2007 Use of Codes in Business Ethics show that 71 per cent of businesses now provide training on codes, compared to 47 per cent in 2004. This is the first time the majority of companies surveyed provide such training.

“This is a major step forward for the effectiveness of business ethics in UK businesses. We have always said that there is no point having a code of ethics unless someone does something to ensure the staff not only know about the code, but are supported in understanding what the ethical values mean for their organisation. This research shows the increasing importance of business ethics training for UK companies,” said Philippa Foster Back, Director of the IBE.

The report also shows the growing concern about environmental issues and climate change in British business. Environmental impacts of business operations is now considered by 81% of business to be as significant an issue as safety and security: an 18% increase over 2004.

Among other findings in the report:

- More boards of directors are taking a direct interest in functioning of codes of business ethics.
- An increasing number of companies monitor their ethics policy. And more companies refer to external standards, compared with the numbers in the 2004 survey.
- 95 per cent of companies provide a way for employees to raise ethical issues on a confidential basis.

Copies of the *Use of Codes in Business Ethics: 2007 Survey and analysis of trends* are available from the Institute of Business Ethics on www.ibe.org.uk

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ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS ETHICS

The Institute of Business Ethics was established by business in 1986 to encourage high standards of business behaviour based on ethical values. The IBE aims to lead the dissemination of knowledge and good practice in business ethics. It is a registered charity (no. 1084014) .

- It seeks to raise public awareness of the importance of doing business ethically.
- It helps organisations to strengthen their ethics culture and encourage high standards of business behaviour based on ethical values and assists in the development, implementation and embedding of effective and relevant ethics and corporate responsibility policies and programmes. It helps organisations to provide guidance to staff and build relationships of trust with their principal stakeholders.
- It collaborates with other UK and international organisations with interests and expertise in business ethics.

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