

**7 October 2009**

## **12,000 PARENTS JOIN CHILDCARE VOUCHERS PROTEST IN ONE DAY**

MORE THAN 12,000 parents in just 24 hours joined the battle to force Gordon Brown to back down on plans to scrap childcare vouchers.

The move by Brown – announced last week – will see around 340,000 parents across the UK lose out on tax breaks for childcare.

The policy had previously been heralded by the Labour Government, which introduced it in 2007, but was scrapped without notice during Gordon Brown's conference speech in Brighton last week.

The scheme was designed to make it easier for parents to return to work after having a child. Prior to Brown's surprise announcement had been viewed as a success.

Now outraged parents have flooded a petition launched on the Downing Street website – which leapt from 8,000 to 20,000 in 24 hours.

The online petition is one of the fastest growing on the Downing Street website. It can be found at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/keepvouchers/>.

Charlotte Venables, 38, is a working mum from Bristol with three children aged two, three and five.

She said: "Childcare vouchers have been a big help making sure that as a mum I am able to return to work.

"I was horrified to hear Gordon Brown announce that he wanted to scrap them. I am not surprised so many parents are now protesting against this announcement.

"The Government is punishing exactly those people it should be helping – hardworking taxpayers who want to get back to work. This decision must be reversed."

Simon Moore, managing director of Computershare Voucher Services, the UK's largest provider of vouchers said: "The outrage that has greeted the Prime Minister's announcement has been phenomenal.

"These vouchers are a real benefit to hundreds of thousands of hardworking parents and Brown's callous dismissal of them has caused real anger.

"I am not at all surprised that parents are protesting against this cut. In fact I expect this to continue and for childcare to become a key battleground in the upcoming elections."

### **Editor's Notes:**

About Computershare Voucher Services

Computershare Voucher Services acquired Busy Bees Voucher Services in September 2008. We are responsible for the administration, management and development of childcare vouchers, an employee benefit available to all eligible working parents. Once an employer is registered with childcare vouchers, parents are entitled to exchange a part of their salary for vouchers. This part of their salary is exempt from tax and National Insurance contributions. Childcare vouchers are National Insurance exempt for employers.

For more information visit: [www.busybeesvouchers.com](http://www.busybeesvouchers.com)

### **About Computershare Limited (CPU)**

Computershare (ASX:CPU) is a global market leader in transfer agency and share registration, employee equity plans, proxy solicitation and stakeholder communications. We also specialise in corporate trust services, tax voucher solutions, bankruptcy administration and a range of other diversified financial and governance services.

Founded in 1978, Computershare is renowned for its expertise in data management, high volume transaction processing, payments and stakeholder engagement. Many of the world's leading organisations use these core competencies to help maximise the value of relationships with their investors, employees, creditors, members and customers.

Computershare is represented in all major financial markets and has over 10,000 employees worldwide.

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