

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Noisy children and poor internet most common difficulties when working from home as Brits begin to eye return to office life

- A quarter say noise from children have been a difficulty when working from home with similar proportion (24%) complaining about connectivity
- However more than four in 10 miss their daily commute despite saving £1,320 a year
- And 53% say they are missing the office due to the loss of social interaction and diminished productivity

Research by **HUB Financial Solutions** has shone a light on the most common problems that non-essential workers have experienced during the lockdown as they transition to home working.

Noisy kids were the most common complaint with a quarter (25%) saying that this had disrupted their work. Poor connectivity – such as internet or phone signal – was another common complaint with 24% saying this caused difficulties and the same proportion stating noise from neighbours had been a problem. However, nearly a third (30%) said that they had not experienced any difficulties with home working.

**Simon Gray, Managing Director of advisory firm, HUB Financial Solutions**, commented: “The move to home working has caused a fundamental rethink for millions of Brits in their day-to-day lives.

“Workers are having to juggle meetings with the daily routine of their children, while internet connections in residential areas will have seen a significant uptick in traffic. It is positive, though, that many have been happy with the shift to home working and are coping well with this new way of living.”

Despite this, the majority of respondents (53%) said that they were missing the office. The community of the workforce was the most commonly cited reason for this with 53% saying they missed daily social interaction with colleagues.

The impact on productivity was also a key reason with 35% saying they missed the office because it was easier to get things done when meeting in person, and a third (33%) saying they were just more productive in the office environment.

Even the loss of the daily commute was regretted by many workers, with more than four in 10 (43%) saying they missed their trip into the office. This is despite the substantial savings to be made from avoiding the commute, with respondents estimating they could save £110 a month if working from home more often, rising to £134 for those living in London.

Simon Gray commented: “While the daily commute and office grind were once subjects of derision for workers the length and breadth of the UK, it is clear that their absence has had an impact.

“For many, the daily commute offers the chance to formally ‘start’ and ‘end’ the day, separating professional and personal life. It gives people a bit of personal time and, for many, the chance to relax listening to music, catching up on box sets, or reading a book.

“Similarly, while the office environment has its drawbacks, the social element has clearly been missed by workers. The absence of distractions such as children or the TV allows people to focus on their work or to pick up any questions with their colleagues more easily in person.”

## Enquiries

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### Notes to Editors:

#### About the research

Research conducted by Opinium via a survey of 1,293 UK homeowners aged 18+ between 19th and 21st May 2020.

#### About HUB Financial Solutions

HUB Financial Solutions is a professional services company, which provides a range of retirement-focused services to UK businesses and their customers. It offers corporate clients digital solutions, business consultancy, marketing services, customer services along with advisory, guidance and broking services.

As part of its advisory, guidance and broking services HUB Financial Solutions offers the individual customers of corporate clients expert regulated financial advice on how to use their pension savings, release some of the value from their home (through a lifetime mortgage) or fund later-life care.

HUB Financial Solutions' innovative approach enables people with modest pension savings and assets to access an affordable regulated advice service. It delivers face-to-face advice nationwide at a time and place to suit the client as well as offering telephone appointments if the client prefers. It is one of the biggest lifetime mortgage brokers in the UK, to date it has helped more than 18,000 people release over £925m of equity from their properties and has provided advice or guidance to over 25,000 people on turning their pension savings into regular income for retirement.

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