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Business Briefing

Owners eschew paternity leave

The prime minister might feel able to hand over the running of the country to take full advantage of paternity leave legislation, but most small business owners do not, according to a poll.

Half of the parents in a survey of 400 company heads by business information website FreeIndex.co.uk said they took no paternity leave at all when their last child was born.

Only 12 per cent of those that did take some time off took their full fortnight's entitlement, while two thirds said they took less than a week.

Small business owners often have no choice but to carry on working regardless of what is going on in their personal life, according to Martin Turner, managing director of FreeIndex.co.uk. "As the owner of a business and a father, I can appreciate how difficult it is to take time off," he said.