



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

The Government strongly supports entrepreneurship and enterprise. We see both as vital to competitive, innovative, profitable and responsible business in Britain. I am therefore delighted to welcome the launch of the Merseyside Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame tonight.

I welcome the determination of those developing the Hall of Fame to recognise enterprise in its many forms from the Pilkingtons' and the Ferrantis' scientific enterprise which led to great manufacturing ventures, to Kitty Wilkinson's social entrepreneurship which tackled major social problems in the Nineteenth Century. The same spirit is shown today by business entrepreneurs like Sharon Hilditch, Steve Morgan, Phil Redmond, Bill Kenwright and social entrepreneurs like Clair Dove.

The Government sees collaboration between the public and private sectors as a priority. We are, therefore, pleased to see the Business Link for Greater Merseyside, the Liverpool Business Centre, the Regional Development Agency, the Government Office, the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the private sector working so effectively together on such an enterprising project.

I am particularly pleased that the Hall of Fame will be a resource that schools can draw on to highlight not only the importance of entrepreneurship, but its relevance to pupils and students from all backgrounds.

The Merseyside Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame recognises the contribution of local people from the past like William Rathbone, and the present such as Elaine Clarke, fellow Europeans like Ludwig Mond and Michael Whitty, people of African origin like James Brown – even a Mancunian Sir John Moores. This initiative highlights the opportunities enterprise offers to all.

I look forward to hearing how the Hall of Fame develops in the future, inducting additional entrepreneurs and expanding regionally, nationally and – perhaps – across Europe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Blair". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'T' and a long, flowing 'B'.

18 November 2004