

A scaleup friendly budget, a new IBM climate change challenge and the curse of sick leave

Maddyness provides you with a quick digest of three news items to keep you up to date with the startup scene, emerging trends and other noteworthy stories. Here's what's been happening in the news this week.

Temps de lecture : minute

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The chancellor could use the Budget to help both startups and investors

To emphasise the importance of showing that the UK is very much open for business post-Brexit, the government has decided to support both startups and investors.

With the new chancellor Rishi Sunak confirming that a budget will go ahead on the 11th of March, the attention is focused on potential reform to entrepreneurs' relief. These changes could enable entrepreneurs to pay less capital gains tax when they sell all or part of their business. This is a major step forward for later-stage business owners. The government is keen to maintain the existing reliefs that enable businesses to progress from the startup phase and as well as reducing the restrictions faced by businesses at early stage.

IBM competition calls for open source solutions to climate change

Now in its third edition, the [Call for Code Global Challenge](#) is a competition led by IBM, United Nations Human Rights and the Linux Foundation. The challenge will call for developers and innovators from all over the world to fight climate change with open source-powered tech.

Over five years, this \$30M initiative motivates developers to use their skills and latest tech expertise to create new concepts that can drive positive and long-lasting change across the globe. According to IBM, the challenge “encourages and fosters the creation of practical applications” built on open-source software including Red Hat OpenShift, IBM Cloud, IBM Watson, IBM Blockchain and data from The Weather Company.

Sick days represent £77B per year in the UK

A recent survey of 32,000 workers conducted by [VitalityHealth](#) showed that sick leave costs the UK economy £77B per year uncovering an estimated average of 2-3 sick days per month or 27 sick days per year.

As a result, companies experience a decrease in productivity due to the work of their employees being interrupted. Many HR and health professionals indicate that this trend is due to the pressures and anxiety associated with work. Tight deadlines and the inability to turn off laptops and mobile phones after hours are encouraging a poor work-life balance and declining states of physical and [mental health](#).

Overall, employers lose £17B pounds in paid sick leave, since salaried employees receive the same pay, despite taking days off through illness. According to the survey, the most common reasons for taking sick days are colds and flus, migraines and headaches, stomach bugs, sports

injuries and toothaches.

Most organisations are barely trying to fight this issue, while others are encouraging flexible hours for a better life balance, with remote working for 1 to 2 days per week and offering health and fitness on business premises including yoga, meditation and running clubs.

Article by Maddyness