

OUT OF sight

Are pyjamas the new power suit?

Bryony Taylor investigates.

Everyone who's anyone knows the benefits of teleworking to both employers and employees; Canada has gone as far as to have November 4 named a dedicated teleworking day! In today's busy business world the advent of portable internet communications and subsequent confidence in the infrastructure that provides them, has caused a massive rise in those workers who opt out of the stuffy office for managing their work at home.

Primarily Britain is still stuck with the idea of a working week that consists of forty hours, usually 9–5, where people are paid by time rather than output. Teleworking, however, forces companies and employees to reconsider their traditional options. A reversal of this formula will not happen suddenly, but coupled with data from the Office of National Statistics showing that by mid-2006 72.6% of home internet connections were now broadband; we are already witnessing the early stages of a seismic shift in this direction, the beginning of teleworking revolution.

It's not just the ability to turn on your computer at home which has caused the shift. Both Vodafone and T-mobile are offering internet broadband services on their mobile phones, and Windows have a

dedicated operating system for handheld devices. Theoretically then, should you wish, all this technology means you can have a weekend away and still check your emails (err, great!)

So what is it that is so appealing about working from home in your pyjamas in front of the TV? According to figures released in *The Guardian* one out of twenty people now use their home as an office at least one day a week. Leaving the often frustrating commute to work behind for a wander downstairs to the comforts of one's own home, it is not surprising that office workers are enjoying benefits of work from home in a quieter environment. However, as idyllic as such a working experience may sound, only those with strong self motivation report the best results. Statistics show that only 2% of those that work at home are classed in the under 25s bracket, as opposed to 22% of 25–34 year olds. Interestingly men, according to the UK Labour Force Survey, are more commonly found to be working from home.

It is important however that you remember that 'out of sight' often does mean out of mind – especially if you've not spoken to your boss, or work colleagues in the last week. Therefore regular trips into the central hub can be worthwhile once in a while, just to convince others that you still exist. ●



