

efig defends interior planting again

9.6.14

efig was at it again last week – responding to negative press coverage. Such a shame as only a week earlier [The Guardian](#) had published the piece about a sustainable office which had acknowledged our need for nature – or at least views of it.

We'd responded to that article too with a reminder that bringing the outside in helped and lots of references to the benefits accrued.

We had barely finished this when the tweet in the picture was picked up. We felt we had to respond again.



Here is our letter we sent to The Sun:

Dear Editor

Government ministers and others seem intent on slamming the cost of our health and productivity. We're talking about the fact that they consider indoor plants as an excessive luxury or even a waste of money.

Your exclusive story by David Wooding published earlier this week suggests that the investment in pot plants and their maintenance by John Prescott was one such action.

The matter 'is being addressed' by selling off the plants to staff in 'jungle sales' by Eric Pickles.

A good investment after all

Both Mr Pickles and Mr Wooding might be interested to know that far from squandering taxpayers' money, Mr Prescott may have been better informed.

There has been on-going research around the world that confirms that plants help to clean the indoor air (often 100 times more polluted than outdoor air according to the Environment Protection Agency); reduce the amount of time taken off sick while improving general wellbeing (Prof Tove Fjeld and others); help to keep the workforce stress-free or at the very least less stressed than they might otherwise be (Prof Virginia Lohr and Dr Roger Ulrich); and an important factor, improve productivity by more than 38% (Dr Craig Knight).

When sickness costs UK businesses £14billion a year (CBI) anything that addresses that issue must save money. Alongside the fact that a workforce more than a third more productive means that whichever business or department invests in plants is onto a winner.

I have included a link to a synopsis of the research findings about how plants work for all of us. Of course if you would like further information, an efig representative would be happy to speak to you.

We wonder if The Sun will publish our letter or respond in any form? We'll keep you posted if they do.

