



'We're getting driven to brink'

CASE STUDY 3 Haulier Owen Cooke

HAULIER Owen Cooke has said the new Budget measures are pushing companies like his the brink — and could result in job losses.

Mr Cooke owns export company Independent Express Cargo and national transport firm **TPN Pallet Network**, employing more than 60 people directly and 250 indirectly.

The 62-year-old dad-of-three from Oldcastle, Co Meath, warned: "The two per cent on VAT will have an impact on retail sales and that affects our volumes and business.

"Overall the increased carbon tax will see hauliers continue to re-fuel while abroad in countries like Belgium where diesel is now 12 cent cheaper.

Sales

"This will see the Government losing out on over €300m to the Exchequer."

He also said: "These measures are pushing me to the brink.

"This could also cost jobs and I may have to look at that if retail sales don't increase."

