



Case study: Alan Hewitt, owner, The Bustard Inn

'I'm Alan Hewitt and I own, along with my wife, The Bustard Inn, in South Rauceby. We've owned it for 11 years. It's our village pub.

Since we opened the business, we've had a lot of our employees have stayed with us for a long time and we've always looked after them and treated them as family. The one missing link was they didn't have a pension.

The top priority was to make it as straightforward as possible for the employees and for ourselves. We are a small business and small businesses have lots of issues to deal with. And, I have to say that NEST was like oil on troubled water. Because I was concerned that with only five employees, five staff members, we'd be too small for anybody to be interested. But, of course, with NEST, it's not a problem. The fact it's a government backed scheme suggested to me that it would be OK for the future.

The time spent managing NEST is surprisingly small. The time it takes, I would say, something like between 30 seconds and one minute. That might sound ridiculous, but you press the button, print off a report, go into the NEST account and put in the information of the following month. It literally is that quick. It was designed to be very simple. The actual registration process was simple. It allowed me to fulfil the compliance issues that we have to do. So it's straightforward, just what we wanted. It's there for the staff. They've got their own individual pots which they can look at. So it works a treat as far as I'm concerned.

It's, as my father said to me years ago, bless him. He said, 'make the best of it son, it's sooner that you think'. And I'm really pleased that, that provision was made. And it'll be the same for my staff. And all young people need to think about that because you want to enjoy life when you retire. So a pension is vital.'