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## Business leader in call for general election

A HUDDERSFIELD businesswoman has urged Gordon Brown to “stop dithering” and call an immediate general election.

Alison France, managing director of Grange Moor-based consulting engineers Sanderson Associates, said the Prime Minister’s indecision was damaging the “fragile” economy.

She said: “It is time Mr Brown put the country’s interests before his party’s.

“This is not a political point, as I would be saying the same if the Conser-

vatives were acting in the similarly irresponsible way.

“Businesses across all sectors are unable to plan ahead and budget with any confidence and this leads to a collective paralysis that is incredibly damaging.

“We all need to know what the future holds.”

Miss France argued that “strategic and sensible” investment in the public sector would play a crucial role in lifting Britain out of recession.

“We need focused investment in much-needed infrastructure projects and in schools, councils and the NHS, which will create jobs and lead to greater efficiency,” she said.

“We are just not getting this. It is incredibly frustrating.”

Sanderson Associates is one of the UK’s leading consultancies for highways, traffic, transportation and water matters.

Among its projects, it is advising on highways issues relating to the Kirklees

College campus planned for Chapel Hill.

Miss France said clients were less willing to commit to major projects until the political landscape is clearer.

The company is a reliable barometer of the state of the economy.

At a time of high consumer spending, developments such as fitness centres and office developments featured heavily on the books.

With money tight, discount retailers are now a feature on the workloads.