



# AND ONE MORE THING...

## “MEET AND EAT”

This month our columnist shares her meeting woes

By Emma Mills



Today, while I was minding my own business reading celebrity gossip and eating a slightly stale chocolate muffin, my boss came over and asked me if we could 'sit down' for five minutes. What? I was sitting down? And had been for precisely three hours and five minutes. Where else would I sit? What was going on?

Actually it transpired that he wanted to have a meeting with me about 'improving efficiency outcomes and structural empowerment'. Loosely translated as: "I can't be bothered to do that particular task I was doing, so I'm making you do it instead." I'm never sitting down with him again.

What actually wound me up more than the delegation, because that is really the nature of the beast, is the fact we had to have a meeting about it. It took five measly minutes of him huffing and puffing and misusing management speak, and then it was done. I was now in charge of monthly forecasts or some such rubbish. But, he could easily have just emailed me. "Hi Emma, being as you are so inordinately talented in a number of areas I would like you to take responsibility for the monthly forecasts, as of May. Thanks, Big Boss Man." That's all it would have taken. However, it's got me to thinking about meetings, and what an all encompassing waste of time they can be if not handled correctly.

I mean, we have a meeting, which then has to have notes written up (always ends up being my job), we then have to act on those notes and then meet again to explain our actions and the outcomes, more notes are written, more jobs are delegated, and another meeting is set. This process goes on and on in a neverending cycle of misery and nothing is ever actually achieved. Added to this, constant banging on about the same subject can really drain your enthusiasm for a job and put everyone in a bad mood.

So, the moral of the story is, if you can say it in an email, then do so. Otherwise, call a meeting, but make sure there's free cake. **olé**

Should this person write for us again?

Think YOU can do BETTER?

Email us with your "and one more thing" approx 300 words to editor@olezine.co.uk



Emma Mills, 26, Editor, London

Something caught your eye?

Contact us for more information

